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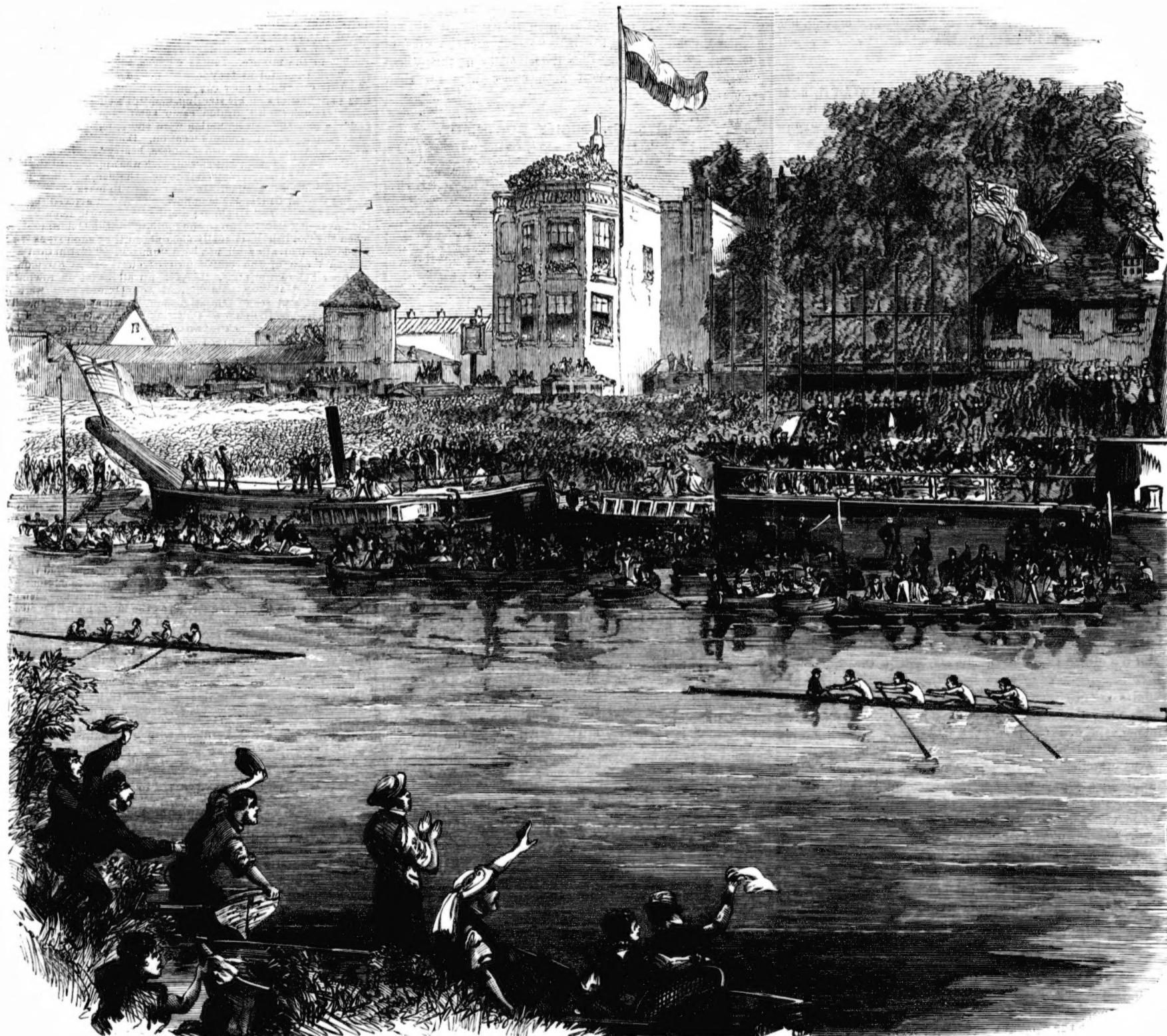
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THE INTER-UNIVERSITY BOAT-RACE: SIDE VIEW OF THE AMERICAN BOAT.



THE INTER-UNIVERSITY BOAT-RACE: STEM VIEW OF THE AMERICAN BOAT.



THE INTER-UNIVERSITY BOAT-RACE: THE FINISH AT MORTLAKE.

BRITISH
7 APR 70
MUSEUM

SOME CURRENT TOPICS.

THE Emperor Napoleon, though now reported to be "convalescent," seems to be still far from well, and a great deal of mystery has—very unwisely, we think—been thrown around his illness. The natural consequences have resulted: all sorts of sinister rumours have been afloat on the subject, people's minds have been perturbed, and panics on the Bourse of almost daily occurrence. Some of the Paris journals declared that his Majesty was in a precarious condition, while the official print merely kept repeating the assertion that the Emperor "continued to improve." But nobody knew precisely what was amiss, or what the ailments were under which his Majesty suffered. The reticence observed in official circles was surely very ill-advised; it would have been much better to speak plainly out on the subject of the Emperor's indisposition, to take the public into confidence, and let the nation know exactly what it had to apprehend, so far as human skill could divine events. For assuredly uncertainty and suspense, in such a case, produce grave evils. Men may not exactly speak out their thoughts, but in France the thought is in everyone's mind, "What is likely to happen should the Emperor die?" And the situation is an apt illustration of the mischiefs that arise when an entire governmental system depends upon one man's life; when the whole national fabric, as it were, rests upon one pillar, and that pillar becomes weak, decayed, and likely to fall. The Emperor is the Government; the Emperor is mortal; and with the Emperor may not the Government pass away? That was the consideration that disturbed the public mind when it was known that the chief of the State was ill—how ill, no one was allowed to ascertain. There is an heir to the throne and fortunes of the Bonaparte dynasty; but that heir is a child, and men feel that "woe to the land whose sovereign is a child" is equally true of France in 1863 as it was of England in 1862, when "Good King Edward" (fourth of the name) was taken away. Frenchmen, perhaps, do not particularly love the Napoleon dynasty, and they certainly dislike the present Emperor's system of personal rule; but they vaguely dread the future, and the era of confusion and disorder that might supervene upon his death. This is what disturbs the public mind, induces Bourse panics, and makes it, moreover, highly desirable to hasten the accomplishment of those political changes that are to make government in France depend, not solely upon one individual, but, to some extent at least, upon institutions.

In Spain things again look hopeful. The Carlist rising is declared to be at an end. General Prim has deemed it safe to quit his post, and Don Carlos is said to be on his way to England. This last circumstance, if true, is significant of his conviction of the hopelessness of the movement carried on in his name, though with small, if any, aid from his personal efforts. The representative of the elder branch of the Spanish Bourbons is at least an illustration of the virtue of discretion. He never placed himself at the head of his adherents, such as they are; he never risked anything personally to win the crown he claimed; and now he is the first to quit the scene when the Fates seem adverse. Not the sort of character this, surely, likely to inspire devotion or heroism among a chivalric though king-and-priest-degraded people! And it is to be hoped that Spanish Carlists will follow their chief's example, and abandon an enterprise for which he—the most interested in success—declines to combat in his own person. Funds, too, it is alleged, are as scarce with Don Carlos as the courage to run risks seems to be; and that lack of the sinews of war may forward the collapse of the movement as much as anything else. So there is a chance of Spain being again delivered from the troublings of dynastic pretensions, and left free to work out the great problem of government now before her: a task sufficiently onerous in itself, and quite enough to strain the capacity of Spaniards to the utmost, without their energies being paralysed by disturbances excited on behalf of such a poor creature as this Don Carlos seems to be. It is not at all improbable, however, that isolated bands may continue for a time to offer resistance; but surely, with neither a leader nor funds, it cannot be for long.

At home the collapse of the Albert Assurance Company, and the disquietude thereby caused, remain the chief topics of discussion. The more fully the state of the Albert's affairs are disclosed, the uglier the facts become; and we have no hesitation in saying that the conduct of the late manager and directors of the company has been highly criminal, and ought to be punishable as such. The chief author of the mischief, however, and the man who introduced and profited by the system of mismanagement that led to the ruin of the concern—Mr. George Goldsmith Kirby, the late manager—is dead, and so beyond the reach of earthly retribution. There is one small scrap of comfort in connection with him, however: the company, it seems, owes his estate some £14,000 of accumulated commissions on premiums received; and it is to be hoped that not one penny of that sum will find its way into the pockets of his representatives. Mr. Kirby made a very good thing of the company while he lived; and it is no more than just that the debt due to him should be confiscated for the benefit—as far as it will go—of the victims he helped to delude. The report submitted to a meeting of shareholders last Saturday exhibited a most scandalous state of affairs. It appears that the company had been "making heavy losses" ever since 1862, though it was constantly represented to be

in a flourishing condition; that dividends and bonuses were paid when no profits had been earned—when, in fact, instead of making profits, the concern was absolutely insolvent; that large sums (amounting in the aggregate to no less than £283,000) had been paid away in compensation to officials of absorbed companies and in fees to negotiators of amalgamations; that the cost of absorbing one company alone (which "might be taken as a guide to the others," as the official liquidator remarked) amounted to £91,641 18s. 4d.; that "about twenty-six persons had received sums varying from £150 to £15,000" in compensation and presents; and that the losses of the Albert had almost exclusively arisen upon the business obtained from the absorbed companies. From which facts it is clear that the Albert directors took over unprofitable business from bankrupt concerns, and paid extravagant prices to get it. The whole history of the Albert, in short, is an example of the system of company-mongering we described last week. It was carried on, not for the transaction of legitimate assurance business, but to provide salaries, and fees, and commissions, and compensations, and bonuses for speculators in companies. Policy holders have been fleeced—swindled, perhaps, would be the right word—to enrich a few individuals; while the company's directors continued to proclaim prosperity, to delude victims, and to receive premiums years after they knew that the concern was hopelessly insolvent and never could meet its liabilities. If this is not criminal conduct, we know not what is; and we feel more than ever convinced that some such system as that which obtains in the State of New York ought to be adopted in regard to life assurance companies in Great Britain. With a man like Dr. Farr or Professor De Morgan to do for assurance companies what Mr. Tidd Pratt does for friendly societies, the public might have some security that the money they invest in assurance is not squandered in reckless folly, or worse. No association should be allowed to transact business that was not constituted on a sound basis and possessed of a sufficient paid-up capital; no certificate should be renewed where the concern was not thoroughly solvent; and directors should be held personally responsible for the safe investment of the funds intrusted to their management. With rules such as these in operation, and rigidly enforced, security may be obtained and honest dealing be induced; but, we fear, not otherwise. If the disaster to the Albert leads to legislation in this sense, it will not have been an unmixed evil. "Sweet are the uses of adversity:" and we trust that the adversity of the present generation of insurers will have sweet uses for their successors.

THE INTER-UNIVERSITY BOAT-RACE.

THE fifty professional observers, whose special privilege it was to witness the great boat-race of Friday, Aug. 27, between Oxford and Harvard, from the beginning to its end, had to spend six hours on the river to witness a contest which lasted rather less than twenty-three minutes. It occupied more time than it does to travel from London to York; three times as much as an ordinary morning service; far more than the longest dramatic entertainment, to perform a simple journey from the Thames Embankment to Mortlake and back again, and yet every minute of it was well spent. From the moment of embarking at the Temple pier, at 1.30 p.m., to that of leaving the special steam-boat at the same point, at 6.50 in the evening, the interest had been concentrated and intense, and a race which will live for ever in the annals of aquatic history was admitted on all sides to be the most remarkable ever contested. There were never so many small boats on the river at one time as were seen yesterday week. Trim launches from East Indiamen, all mahogany and brass fittings; captains' gigs pulled by picked men, with the captain and his fair and other friends, their feet on well-filled hampers, and preparing for a jovial day; hired wherries stimulated into an activity which would have delighted Taylor, the Water-poet; clumsy barges being pulled with a will by sturdy lightermen and by rough amateurs, who tried to make up for inefficiency by excess of zeal; steamers, crowded to the very paddle-boxes, were all making for Putney with the tide. This was between Blackfriars Bridge and Waterloo, and the river only became fuller and busier the nearer we drew to Putney. The road may have had more carriages on it at some of the Oxford and Cambridge matches, but the river and its banks have never presented such a scene as that of yesterday week. Grave fears were expressed that the Thames Conservancy Board, even aided by the river police, would not be able to carry their admirable intentions out, and they gained strength when Putney Bridge was reached, and several large Citizen and Iron Company's steamers were seen inside the line of barges which were to connect the chain to be put up at three p.m. On our way down we had seen some of these with flaunting holiday flags, and making high promises of taking their customers along the course. Wild stories were told concerning one in particular—the Venus—which was chartered—so the story ran, with the avowed object of setting regulations at defiance, and of carrying people down at such a price per head as would make the payment of a £20 fine an easy matter. Counter anecdotes proved the Conservancy Board to be prepared. Powerful steam-tugs, with tow-ropes and police, were all ready for pulling obstinate steamers back by main force; "no nonsense" was to be "stood," and the course would certainly be clear. Up to three p.m., however, the balance of opinion was in favour of the steamers having their cruel way. The little fleet of them moored close to the starting-place, and apparently prepared to follow the boats, began to melt away at this hour, and was filed off in position on one side or other of the course long before the race began.

Meanwhile the news from shore was encouraging, and the crowd thickened. Both crews were confident, and the Harvard men had moved a point upwards in the betting. There was much "welshing," the great names of well-known list-keepers being assumed by the unknown and impecunious, and printed cards were exchanged for money with frequency and ease. The day was a glorious one for the idle, the sun shining with a fierce heat, which was tempered by a fresh, though gentle breeze, which rustled through the Fulham trees and swayed their bright green leaves until they looked like a bowing canopy of state for the gaily-dressed damsels and doughty gallants beneath them. Putney Bridge, the road leading from it to Barnes, as well as the river side, became fuller and fuller; a noble Lord who came on the press boat by mistake left it; a steam-launch with Mr. Lord, of the Thames Conservancy on board, rushed to and fro; other steamers, with policemen on duty on their decks, backed up his efforts; the barges were rearranged, and the final instructions given to the captains of the two umpires' and the press boats, and all was declared ready for the start. There had been seven miles of crowded regatta all the way to Putney Bridge, and the boats had gone by in thick flocks

like birds while we were waiting there; but all had been put in order, and the course was clear.

Just after Putney church clock had chimed out five there was a stir in the crowd by the boathouses on the Putney side; a shout and a clapping of hands; and soon after the two crews were side by side. The Oxford men rowed up first, with coxswain so exactly like Lord Eden, at Drury Lane, that one looked round for the other characters in the drama. This crew has been too frequently and recently described to make it necessary to say more than that they looked in splendid condition, and fully equal to their work. The Harvard men looked bigger; but the most notable differences between them and their rivals were of complexion and dress. Their white jerseys were so cut as to show their bare shoulders and to give free play to the muscles; their hair was longer than that of Oxford, and each head was bound with a white fillet, as if to keep their hair from coming into their eyes. Harvard had won the toss, and took up its position on the Fulham side, and Oxford on the Putney side. Now the umpires' boat, with starter on board, drew alongside; the two boats were held back each by a friendly hand from the barges, and the supreme moment had arrived. The Thames watermen were, as a class, in favour of Harvard, Harry Kelley refusing to hedge his money to the last, and pronouncing the affair a certainty. The gentlemen, on the contrary, believed in Oxford firmly, and 2 to 1 was freely offered by leading members of the London and other rowing clubs who had hovered near. On board the steamer sympathy was pretty equally divided; for there were many representatives of American journalism with us, and many of the short, sharp cheers, which sound exactly like a succession of double knocks, which greeted Harvard, came from the press boat.

The excitement culminated after this, and all were silent. There was a momentary delay when the starter, Mr. Blaikie, shouted, "Are you ready?" as a preliminary to "Off!" The Oxford boat returned a stentorian "No!" twice, but to the third time of asking all was well, and the two boats glided swiftly off amid tremendous cheers, which were taken up again and again, and came back to us like echoes from thousands of eager waiters who were far away out of sight towards Mortlake. It is impossible to do justice to the sight and scene now. The bright brown skins of the Harvard men, bronzed with exposure to the sun; the mountains of undulating muscle they displayed—Mr. Simmons's arm is certainly larger than any in the Oxford boat, even that of the gigantic Tinné sinking into the shade beside it—the play and dash about their pulling, and the splendid heart they were in, gained them quite as much cheering as was accorded to the Oxford crew. The Americans took the start, and kept it gallantly for at least two miles, going at their work with a rush, which the knowing ones say is more gallant than discreet. *C'est magnifique, mais ce n'est pas la guerre.* There was no doubt, though, as to the friends they have made since they came here. The Harvard colours were plentifully displayed along the banks, and their lead was warmly applauded by the dense, deep crowd which lasted all the way to Mortlake. Miles upon miles of people; miles upon miles of barges, boats, and steamers, moored up and full; miles upon miles of villa, tavern, river-side suburbs, all agitated, all generously welcoming the strangers, and all more than half hoping they would win. It was a noble rush for victory. With faces deep set and eager, and with every muscle of their bodies at the full strain, the Americans led the way, at from one to two boats' lengths ahead until Chiswick Eytot was gained. But they varied in their stroke now, according to the stop-watches on board, making now forty-one, now forty-three, and now forty-five strokes in the minute. It was obvious, too, that the two stroke oars were, powerful as they looked, not so strong as the bow ones, and this compelled their coxswain to "give them rudder," and so bring imputations on his steering, many of which were undeserved. After Hammersmith Bridge came symptoms of distress. The courage and the determination were there, but the bodily powers were failing. Still the cheers went on. Double-knock shouts from American friends in the two steamers, hearty English cheers from the shore went on still; but as Chiswick was approached the Oxford boat was seen to be creeping up; she took the lead, and Harvard never recovered her lost ground. It was curious to mark the excitement among the old University men now. They had avowed their faith in "old Darbshire" all along; and had constantly remarked upon the unvarying "forty-two to the minute" of the Oxford oars. But when the English boat really shot ahead they shouted as if their confidence had after all not been unmixed. "If Harvard wins," had said one of the best-known of our Thames oarsmen half an hour before the start, "I give up all belief in rowing and style." And it was notable that the Oxford men were cool throughout, and seemed unfatigued and fresh at the finish. They took the lead at the part of Chiswick which was adjudged to be best, and they won by nearly two boats' lengths. Opinion varied as to the number of seconds over twenty-two minutes in which the race was run; but, according to Benson's chronograph—which was carried on board the umpires' boat at the request of Mr. Blaikie—the time really occupied was—Oxford, 22 min. 40 sec.; Harvard, 22 min. 46 sec. It is gratifying to record that no hitch took place, and that no intruder presented himself before the boats up to the last moment. Then, just as Oxford was gaining the winning-post, a man, dressed like a gentleman, pulled a boat debarately in front, amid such a burst of execration from the bystanders as made him look pale, foolish, and abashed. A lady was with the fellow, or it is quite possible more serious consequences would have followed. As it is, the person may congratulate himself upon furnishing the solitary exception to a day of general order and good-feeling. There has never been a contest, since contests began in this struggling world, in which there has been so much good feeling—nay, such warm and affectionate feeling for the vanquished men. Their undying pluck, and the gallant way in which they fought the battle out, even when the fates had virtually decided it against them, was on every tongue; and they will be long remembered as men who only succumbed to circumstances which were overwhelming. When their coxswain was seen dashing water in the face of the stroke, as the latter pulled on steadily, it was known that all was over; and it was scarcely necessary to look into their exhausted faces at the close to see how thoroughly they were pumped out. The Oxford crew rowed gently down in front of the press steamer for some miles on its return, and were apparently cool and fresh.

The Harvard crew rowed the race in the boat constructed for them since their arrival in this country by their own builder, Mr. Elliott. Of this craft, which is constructed on the English model, we give a side and section view.

By invitation, the crews dined with Mr. Phillips in the evening at Mortlake.

Both crews have since expressed their entire satisfaction with the manner in which the course was kept during the race. The letter of the Harvard crew, addressed to Mr. Lord and the Thames Conservancy Board, is as follows:—"Gentlemen,—We wish to express to you our gratitude for the thorough manner in which the difficult task of maintaining a clear course on the 27th inst. was executed. We were assured both before our arrival and since that it would be possible to keep the course clear, but we did not believe that you could be so successful as you were, particularly after being present at some of the Thames regattas, and seeing how hard it was to clear the river from boats. Although it was not our good fortune to win the race, we know that nothing was left undone by you to give us a fair field, and we shall always gratefully remember in connection with the event the names of Mr. Lord and of the Thames Conservancy Board.—Yours truly, A. P. LORING, W. H. SIMMONS, F. O. LYMAN, J. S. FAY, jun., S. BURNHAM.—White House, Putney, Aug. 28."

The Harvard crew yesterday left New York in the Inman Royal Mail steamer City of Antwerp.

THE LATE DR. JAMES SEATON SMYTH, of Rodney-street, Liverpool, who died last week, has left by will a munificent endowment of £10,000 for the Liverpool Hospital for Cancer and Skin Diseases, which he founded, and with which he was so intimately connected.

Literature.

Under the Willows, and Other Poems. By JAMES RUSSELL LOWELL. London: Macmillan and Co.

Anything from Mr. Lowell is welcome in the Old Country, and especially poetry, whatever a carefully-considered verdict upon it amounts to. In his own "Fable for Critics" he introduced himself Lowell trying Parnassus to climb, with a whole bale of *isms* together upon his shoulders, and pronounced upon himself the judgment that he would never get on till he learnt "the difference between singing and preaching." He certainly *knows* the difference, and he often sings, but he rarely does his best; and there is still, our taste, too much of what he means by "preaching." Nor is a preaching novel or thought out with exactness. Take the following poem, entitled

THE MINER.

Down 'mid the tangled roots of things
That coil about the central fire,
I seek for that which giveth wings
To stoop, not soar, to my desire.

Sometimes I hear, as 't were a sigh,
The sea's deep yearning far above,
"Thou hast the secret not," I cry,
"In deeper deeps is hid my Love."

They think I burrow from the sun,
In darkness, all alone, and weak;
Such loss were gain if He were won,
For 'tis the sun's own Sun I seek.

"The earth," they murmur, "is the tomb
That vainly sought his life to prison;
Why grovel longer in the gloom?
He is not here; he hath arisen."

More life for me where he hath lain
Hidden while ye believed him dead,
Than in cathedrals cold and vain,
Built on loose sands of *It is said*.

My search is for the living gold;
Him I desire who dwells reclusive,
And not his image worn and old,
Day-servant of our sordid use.

If him I find not, yet I find
The ancient joy of cell and church,
The glimpse, the surety undefined,
The unquenched ardour of the search.

Happier to chase a flying goal
Than to sit counting laureled gains,
To guess the Soul within the soul
Than to be lord of what remains.

Hide still, best Good, in subtle wise,
Beyond mⁿ nature's utmost scope;
Be ever absent from mine eyes
To be twice present in my fall.

We cannot complain that the sentiment is old, for it will last as long as human nature; but is there sufficient novelty in the setting to make it satisfactory? We do not find it so. There is almost always something wanting in Mr. Lowell's poetry. It is full of noble thought, and concerns itself chiefly with the very best, deepest, and highest of human feelings; but we find it impossible not to resent the occasional recklessness of the workmanship. The volume before us holds in our opinion about the same rank, considered as poetic work, as Mr. Kingsley's miscellaneous poems; and in both books the most satisfying pieces are the slightest in form. We have nothing here better than some of the pieces in the former volume of Mr. Lowell, like the "Vision of Sir Launfal," "Rosalie," or "The Changeling"—the last being, in our judgment, the least adulterated of all Mr. Lowell's poems. Just as in reading Mr. Kingsley's miscellanies we turn from "Andromeda" to "Airly Beacon" so, in reading Mr. Lowell, we prefer "Auf Wiedersehen" and "After the Burial" to poems of higher pitch and greater compass. Take one specimen of what is so very unpleasant to people who want poetry, and so very tedious to well-read folks in general:—

I see it all now: when I wanted a king,
'Twas the kingship that failed in myself I was seeking,—
'Tis so much less easy to do than to sing,
So much simpler to reign by a proxy than be king!
Yes, I think I do see: after all's said and sung,
Take this one rule of life, and you never will rue it,—
'Tis but do your own duty and hold your own tongue,
And Blondel were royal himself, if he knew it!

This is all very true, and so is a good deal of Carlyle and Ruskin; but it is no more poetry than "Tis the voice of the sluggard, I hear him complain." Mr. Lowell has in England a knot of warm friends and admirers, among whom the present writer has the honour to count; but we would give something to see him collect his poems by themselves. He knows fast enough which they are. Some of them are in this volume, which we receive with thankfulness and pleasure, only wishing half of it were away, and the other half made as good as a man of his fine genius could make it.

Simple as a Dove. A Novel. By the Author of "Olive Varcoe," &c. 3 vols. London: Tinsley Brothers.

Nothing short of a good novel could be expected from the author of "Olive Varcoe," and we are bound to confess that "Simple as a Dove" more than satisfies our "great expectations." The story is powerful in stirring incidents, and the complications and surprises are sufficient to defeat the penetration of the most accomplished novel reader in the world. Tender and delicately-organised brains, nursed on nothing but fiction, will find themselves wandering far astray in attempting to solve such mysteries as those conceived by the author of "Olive Varcoe." To be sure, the chief mystery of all—indeed, save for the varieties it calls up, it is the only one—is by no means new in its foundations. It is neither more nor less than the astonishing likeness of two brothers; and what may be built on such a subject is well known from the popularity of the Franchi. Yet the best use is made of the fraternal resemblance; and, whilst almost all the remaining characters are deceived in the matter up to almost the last page of the story, the reader feels himself, equally with them, unable to unravel the mysteries around him. The faculty of producing so bewildering an effect is in itself enough to make a novel-writer successful. Very often we "know what is coming" perfectly well, and yet the author has power to sustain the interest to the end. That is a great faculty, truly; but it is far more rare to keep all the murders and marriages, and most of what else goes to make up novels, profoundly secret until the story closes. In this faculty the author of "Olive Varcoe" and "Simple as a Dove" stands out clearly from the mass of the followers of his craft; whilst he has some qualifications of other kinds in which he falls by no means lower than many of the best. His Cornish scenery, for instance, is very well described, and he does not trouble himself much as to how his characters are dressed, nor how the apartments which they inhabit are furnished. He enters into their minds—their motives for energy, sloth, or waywardness in action, as the case may be—at, perhaps, too great length, but that is simply a matter to be settled by individual temperaments. But, above all, there is great variety of character and incident, and it becomes difficult to say what kind of affairs mundane the author does not touch upon. The opening chapters concerning the Woodford family, who are good, bad, dull, gay, ruined, and extravagant, will bear fair contrast with the Bennett family in Miss Austen's "Pride and Prejudice" whilst other characters—for instance, the banker, Norman Leslie, and his brother—are as good specimens of melodramatic villains as the trans-pontine stage itself could send forth. The one must be Mr. Shepherd. Surely the other might well pass for Mr. Fechter. The third banker, Mr. Grind, the partner, cold and rigid as stone, but yet full of care and tenderness, is an excellent study. As for the "hero," Lieutenant Philip Rayner, he is little better than a nobody, with occasional spasms, which are supposed to indicate a heart of the most brilliant construction; but he has the "fatal gift"

of weakness. The ladies are, in a certain way, much to our liking. All the episode, which leaks out by degrees, concerning Rayner's mother is charmingly simple and idyllic. The "Dove" herself, called "Fairy," is one of those blessed beings who are certainly a great deal too good for this world; but we doubt if it was sound art to marry her to the wrong man and pitch her over a precipice in a manner so ambiguous as to leave doubts between accident and design. Her sister Agnes is a social villain, who sticks at nothing in order to set everybody by the ears. Such people are to be met with on a small scale, but they are more repulsive in pen and ink than in real life. Another undoubted monster "in female shape" as the reporters say, is Miss Minnie Sinclair, who has a face like white satin, with eyes like several other things, according to the malignancy abroad; who manages to destroy the peace of families better than any Chancery suit ever known—and all because she could not make up her matrimonial mind in time—and who gets nothing in return but such happiness as may be derived from torturing a criminal husband with whom she flies across the Atlantic.

Some of these elements may not sound very pretty; but indeed they blend into a story of no common interest. Sufficient justice has already been done to the effective character of the book in regard to its literary style; and it may now be safely left to the care of seaside visitors, who certainly will enjoy their cooling dip with extra relish after the scorching interest of "Simple as a Dove."

Little Plays for Little Actors and Home Performance: "Whittington and His Cat" and "The Children in the Wood." By Miss Corner. With Illustrations by Alfred Crowquill and J. V. Barret. London: Dean and Son.

Two small volumes, presumably cheap, and pretty in appearance. The two artists have given of their best. The stories, however, in Miss Corner's dramatic poem are singularly wanting in liveliness—"The Children in the Wood" being absolutely depressing and quite unsuited for the purpose. Miss Corner's observations about over-careful parents and guardians keeping children from everything associated with plays and theatres are sensible enough. Children should have as much amusement as possible; but it may be doubted if they will get much out of the wicked old uncle and the babes. In this form, too, even Whittington loses much of his point.

NEW POEMS.

Ludibria Lanæ; or, The Wars of the Women and the Gods. An Allegorical Burlesque. By WILLIAM JOHN COURTHOPE. London: Smith, Elder, and Co.

Sybil of Cornwall; a Poetical Tale. And Other Poems. By NICHOLAS MICHELL, Author of "Ruins of Many Lands," &c. London: Chapman and Hall.

Here are two books utterly unlike, which are only bracketed together here because they both fall naturally under the head of "new poetry," and because some observations may possibly fall which will be applicable to one as to the other.

Mr. Courthope's "Ludibria Lanæ," taken as a specimen of sparkling, easy verse, something after the Byron style, is as fresh and lively a new volume as we have seen since Mr. Cayley's "Sir Reginald de Mohan"; but, unlike Mr. Cayley and Byron, Mr. Courthope is in no way discursive, but sticks to his subject with all the pertinacity of an artist who has made up his plan and contemplated his details from the beginning. A few pages of preface are well worth reading. In these the author gives his idea of burlesque, and beyond all question it is the true one. Burlesque means, in most minds of the present day, a graceful fairy-story turned into bad grammar and slang; a highly-finished drama degraded by the removal of the sphere of action from the heights of poetic imagination into the mud of mere buffoonery; of puns never humorous; of dances not always decorous; and of nigger songs and accompanying breakdowns which sensible people fly from anywhere, except in some of the least-reserved of the minor theatres. Such "burlesques" are properly "travesties;" and people may learn with advantage from Mr. Courthope that burlesque proper is, for instance, something wherein light and frivolous matters are treated as of the utmost importance and concern, and he happily adduces as an instance Pope's "Rape of the Lock." Without going back to Ariosto and others, of whom the author seems to be extravagantly fond, it is enough to say that the plan of his poem may be considered as founded on the burlesque view of Pope. "The Wars of the Women and the Gods" take place in the present day. Ever since the gods have been expelled from Olympus they have been inhabiting the moon and becoming a very effete set of beings; and, as the story opens, the blue-stockings have resolved to forsake man and the earth, and make the lunar orb their own. For this reason they start an academy of avowed female devotees, something a little less material than Mr. Mortimer Collins's "Azure Academy" in "The Ivory Gate," and considerably less poetical than the feminine university in Mr. Tennyson's "Princess." The gods, hearing of this, send Cupid to tempt the young ladies; but he fails, and is succeeded in his endeavour by the Knight Amadis, in the disguise of Amaryllis. But he is found out, and a battle ensues between the women and the gods, midway between the earth and the moon, and the fortunes of war are all on the side of the ladies, when suddenly Venus conquers them all by dazzling them with her shield of vanity, and they are left falling, falling, for ever into illimitable space. As a skit upon the "woman's rights" nonsense no lady can take exception to this clever volume, which is quite good-natured, and more readable than most of the modern literature which comes in our way. It remains to give a specimen of the remarkably flowing versification of Mr. Courthope, and to explain that a little passage about ladies' dress is selected because everybody understands it, and it can be detached from the whole poem without explanation or dislocation:—

Ah! did the maiden Muse not frown,
I'd bring my fancy's flower to fruit,
And paint you every various gown,
(Sweet language, eloquent, though mute!)
Long-trained, or circling, like a crown,
The ankle clipp'd in fairy boot;
The fairy boot the foot should show,
The bend above, the arch below.

Then should you have before your eyes
White Arctic fox (thrice happy vermin,
That died to gain such paradise!)
Clasping their necks, or snowy ermine,
Smooth sealskin in cross-fold, a prize
Snatched from the backs of diving mermen;
Fin shawls with India's soft-edged bloom,
And scarves bright-striped in Roman loom.

Nor less the tiny bonnet fair
Should perch—as when a moth caresses
A primrose—midway in the hair,
Where scarce 'tis spied, and never presses;
Above, Martello-wise, in air,
Should rise a tower of alien tresses;
And many a head should woo the zone
With long love-ringlets—not its own.

The volume is throughout a mixture of poetic fancy and playfulness, and never once does it intrude on the tiresome domain of fine writing.

Mr. Nicholas Michell is of a totally different stamp. He has been some time before the world as a writer of graceful verse, and none of his readers would expect him to rise above the very respectable level which he has long since attained. "Sybil of Cornwall" is an affecting story smoothly told. An aged Cornish pastor is under the impression that he has committed a murder, and he is forced to give his daughter to a scoundrel who professes to have seen the deed, but who knows that in the affray with the pastor the supposed victim escaped. The true lover, travelling abroad, meets with the presumably murdered man, and returns with him just in time to interrupt the marriage ceremony as it is taking place in the church, to claim his bride, to circumvent the scoundrel, and to

make the venerable father happy. As an instance of Mr. Michell's calm and dignified manner of telling his story, the reader's introduction to the heroine is subjoined:—

Ye enter—are the wild birds nestling here,
Or fairies gathering for their evening dance?
No speckled throats or fluttering wings appear,
But one of human mould, with eyes of light,
And lovely as a sylphid, meets the sight,
Combining all the Ideal's gorgeous dreams
With all the warmth of beauty's living beams.

* * * * *
Not common was her beauty; in warm Spain,
Or Southern Italy, or those bright isles
Whose marble cliffs gleam o'er the Aegean main,
Fair beings, like that maid, may shed their smiles.
A sorcery dwelleth in such forms, to sway
All who may gaze; hearts struggle, yet obey;
Creatures, once seen, whate'er the strong endeavour,
They haunt men's souls, and memory's world for ever.

All this is very nice writing indeed, and young girls of some other period would assuredly have gone sleepless over it. How it is likely to affect anybody's propensity towards rest or restlessness in the present day we shall not determine. We decline to prescribe "Sybil of Cornwall," although it is a matter of duty to make its properties known. But in cases of poetry very few readers have much "confidence in their medical man." The "other poems" are specimens of serious trifling, or trifling with serious things.

THE PAYMENT OF DIVIDENDS BY THE BANK.

The directors of the Bank of England are exhibiting commendable alacrity in adapting themselves and their system to the convenience of the fundholding and dividend-receiving public as indicated by the Chancellor of the Exchequer in his recently-published correspondence with them, and as they have since been authorised and enabled to do by an Act of Parliament. On Friday week the Bank issued a public notice, addressed to the stockholders in the public funds, as to the transmission of their dividend warrants through the post; and this week another notice was issued by the Bank abolishing the fee of 1s. 6d. hitherto charged on the presentation of powers of attorney for the receipt of dividends. Up to Saturday last the charge on such powers of attorney was 6s. 6d.; but "on and after Saturday, Aug. 28, 1869, the charge for all powers of attorney for the receipt of present and future dividends will be 5s. only, and powers for the receipt of one dividend only will be 1s."

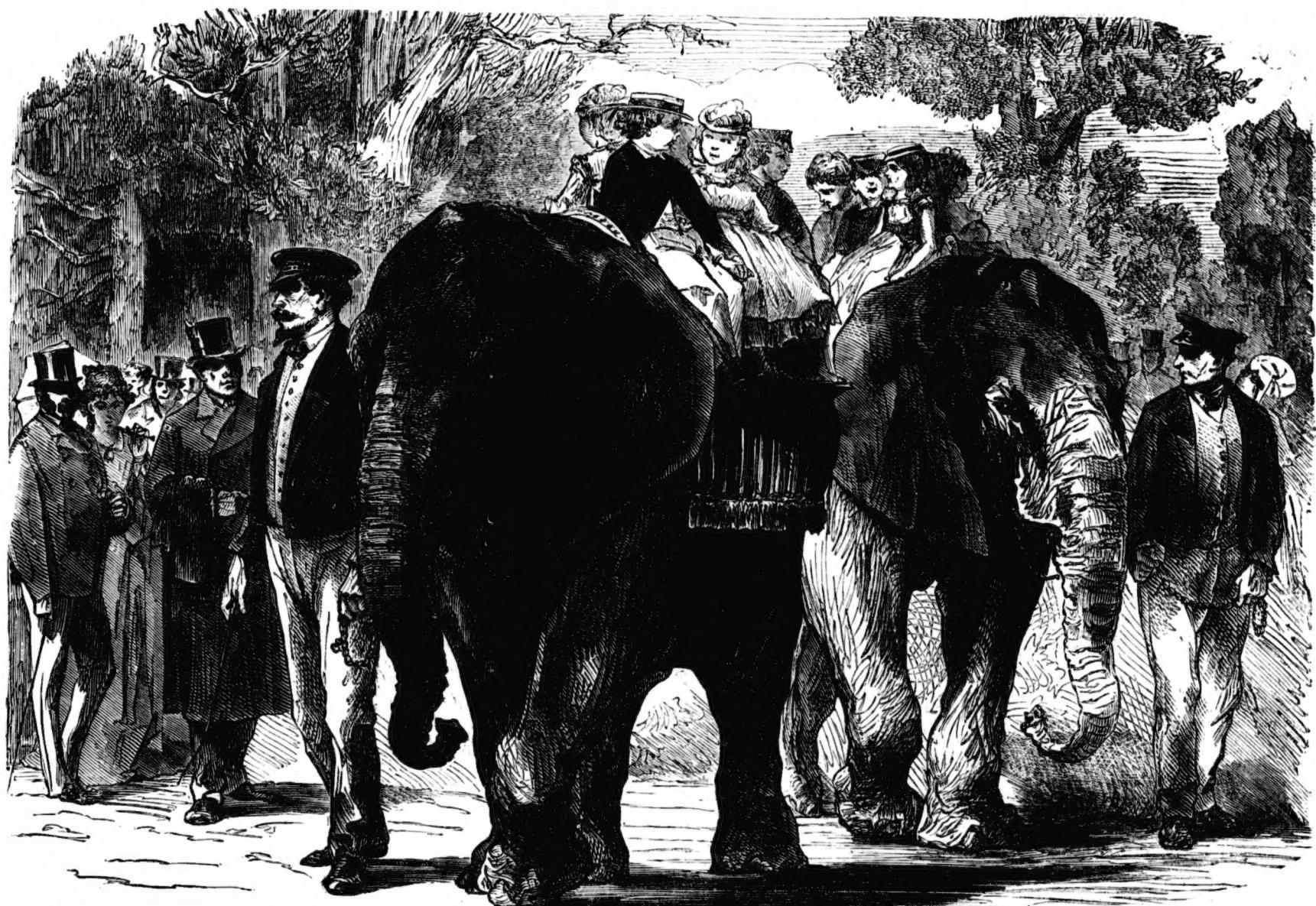
The notice as to the transmission of dividend warrants through the post intimates that "any holder of stock in the public funds residing within the United Kingdom may have his dividend warrant sent to his address, by post, on filing up and sending in to the chief accountant of the Bank a form of application, which may be obtained at the Bank or any of its branches, or at any money-order office" in the United Kingdom. By the form of application the stockholder, after stating his or her name, address, and quality or designation, requests that the dividend warrants to the amounts of the half-yearly dividends due, and to become due, may be sent through the post to the name and address given until further notice. These applications must be lodged at the Bank for the January dividends on or before Dec. 1; for the April dividends on or before March 1; for the July dividends on or before June 1; and for the October dividends on or before Sept. 1. But in order to render the new system applicable to the dividends due in October next, "it is understood" that arrangements have been made to extend the time within which applications may be sent in, for this half year, from Sept. 1 to 15. This will be very convenient and agreeable, no doubt, to those who have dividends to receive in October next; but it occurs to us, and will doubtless occur to many others, that if the time can be so easily extended from the 1st to the 15th on this occasion, why should it not be extended from the 1st to the 15th of the month at each of the other half-yearly payments? The warrants issued in pursuance of these applications will be in the form and nature of a crossed cheque, payable to order, and will therefore require the indorsement of the person to whom they are made payable. In the case of joint accounts, the application must be signed by all the parties to it, directing to which of them the warrant is to be sent, and any change of address must be immediately notified to the Bank by the stockholder in the case of sole accounts, or by the nominee in the case of joint accounts. Another very valuable direction is given in the notice, but it is rendered comparatively valueless by the omission of further information essential to its utility—viz., the day or date on which it is intended the letters containing the warrants shall be posted. The notice requests that "stockholders whose warrants are sent by post should give notice to the Bank if they are not received on the day on which they ought to be delivered;" but it does not state on what day the warrants will be posted, and the stockholder will, therefore, have no means of knowing on what day they ought to be delivered. The omission is one which can very easily be rectified; and this immediate communication to the Bank of the non-delivery, and the prompt inquiry which would of course ensue as to the cause, will no doubt prove a very effective protection to the stockholder. Of course, those who still choose to apply for and receive their dividends in person at the Bank will be at liberty to do so. The new mode of payment is adopted for the convenience of those to whom personal application may not be either convenient or agreeable. And those who have been accustomed to receive their dividends by powers of attorney through their bankers or others, may still continue to do so if they think fit; but warrants issued under power of attorney will not be transmitted by post; they must be presented by the attorney and paid in cash.

Another great concession is made to the convenience of the stockholders. They may now arrange for the payment of their dividends free of charge at any of the branches of the Bank of England, in the provinces, on application to the agent of the bank at those branches respectively. This will, no doubt, be most convenient and advantageous to all those stockholders who may be residing in the immediate vicinity of such places as Birmingham, Bristol, Leeds, Liverpool, Manchester, &c., where the Bank of England has branches. But a still greater advantage is conferred in the concession of stock certificates with coupons attached. In future, "stock certificates with coupons for the half-yearly dividends may be obtained by any stockholder in exchange for inscribed stock," though they can only be obtained in multiples of £50. These certificates will be issued "to bearer;" but if the owner chooses to insert his name therein, "he alone will be entitled to the stock." Upon the whole, we think, the fundholders have good reason to be satisfied with these little improvements in their position; and we think the day is not far distant in which the Chancellor of the Exchequer may find himself enabled to propose the abandonment of the 5s. stamp on their powers of attorney, and in which the directors of the Bank may find it quite practicable to pay the dividends to the public creditor quarterly, instead of half yearly only, as at present.

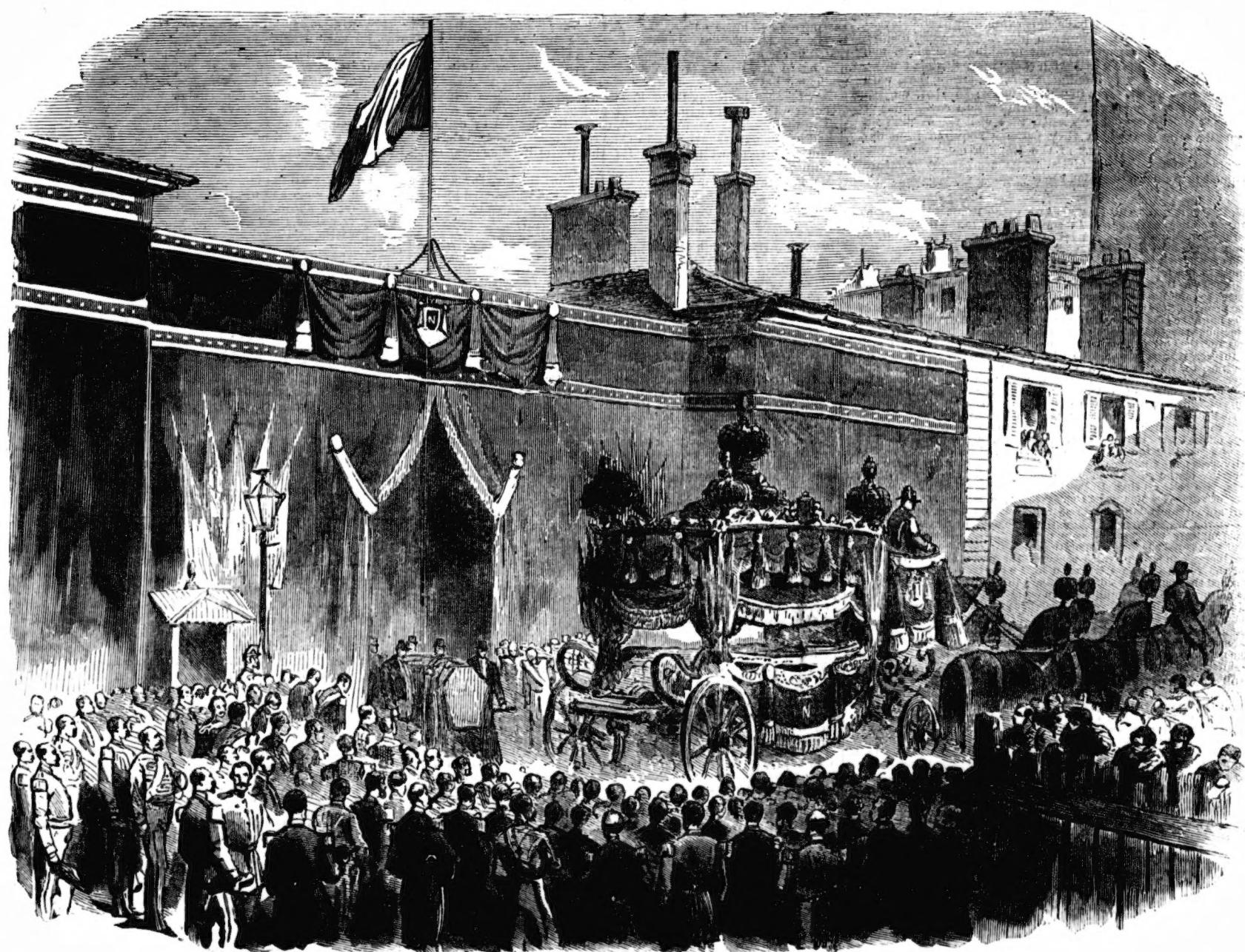
CHURCH ORGANISATION IN IRELAND.—The writs of the Irish Protestant Bishops have been issued, calling upon their clergy to elect proctors to represent them at provincial synods to be held in Armagh and Dublin on Sept. 10. Whenever the Armagh synod meets it will adjourn to join that in Dublin, and both together will consider the question of the representation of the clergy in the future general synod of the new Church. Requisitions are being signed to the various Bishops, asking them to instruct their clergy to invite the laity to elect parochial representatives, who, when they have met in diocesan conference, can be brought together in Dublin to arrange with the clergy the proportion of lay and clerical members in the general synod. It is understood that on the Bishops taking this course the Archbishops will no longer decline the responsibility of bringing the lay representatives of all the dioceses together in a central meeting. Mr. P. S. Bridge offers in a Dublin paper to aid the re-endowment fund of the Church by a gift of four £50 shares of the Midland Great Western Railway. Another gentleman announces that his family will endow one parish.



LAYING THE FOUNDATION-STONE OF A NEW JEWISH SYNAGOGUE AT WISSEMBOURG, FRANCE.



THE YOUNG ELEPHANTS IN THE ACCLIMATATION GARDEN, PARIS.



FUNERAL OF MARSHAL NIEL: THE CORTÉGÉ LEAVING THE LATE MINISTER'S RESIDENCE.—(SEE "ILLUSTRATED TIMES," AUG. 28.)

LAYING THE FOUNDATION-STONE OF A NEW SYNAGOGUE

The Israelitish community at Wissembourg, on the Bas Rhin, has just distinguished itself by inaugurating a fete on the occasion of laying the first stone of a new synagogue which is about to be erected in that town. Perhaps the good people of the Lower Rhine are not accustomed to too many holidays; or, on the other hand, they may be so imbued with the spirit of festivity that they take advantage of any occasion which is calculated to lead to enjoyment. However this may be, when the Grand Rabbi of the Jewish consistory reached the environs, he found not only the civil but the military authorities ready to receive invitations, and to respond by assisting at the solemn ceremony. Therefore, the music of the fire brigade regiment, the singing of the choral society, and the assemblage of the whole population celebrated the occasion, and the Grand Rabbi, before the Mayor and the official dignitaries of the Town Council, was able, in an effective and touching oration, to compare the religious amanities of the past with those amenities which now bind in one brotherhood the representatives of differing creeds. Our Engraving represents the scene during the venerable gentleman's address to the assembly.

OUR FRIENDS THE ELEPHANTS IN PARIS.

ALL of us know and respect the elephants in the Zoological Gardens; most of us—we are speaking to our young readers—have had the honour of a seat upon the back of one of them, and have fed them with those soft seed-biscuits on which they are supposed principally to subsist, so carrying out the usual conviction that very big people are mostly small eaters. For our parts, we believe that, though they have a trifling repast at their regular meal-times, these biscuits and a few of those rather hard, wrinkled apples peculiar to the refreshment-stall of the gardens, with now and then a sweetie, or a macaroni, or a cracknell, form the principal diet of those intelligent creatures, who form to us the great attraction of the Zoological collection. The gardens might as well be shut up to-morrow, and the wild beasts sold to a travelling menagerie or killed and stuffed for a museum, if the elephants suddenly determined to retire into private life. If any proof of this were wanted it might be found in the fact that even in Paris—among French people, who are so easily amused that perhaps a giraffe, or even a dromedary, might supply a good many deficiencies—they have been obliged to provide a couple of elephants (they pronounce the word differently there) as a proper attraction in the Jardin d'Acclimation, which means a garden where animals and plants from foreign lands are placed that they may become accustomed to the climate of Paris. Of course, such a garden as that is not wanted in London. Every animal in our Zoological Garden ought to be precious glad to have been allowed to come to England and enjoy the fresh air! In Paris it makes all the difference, you see; because, what with their charcoal fires, and the continual smell of cooking, and sausages, and the kickshaws that they have for their meals, and because of France not being an island, and some of the people wearing wooden shoes and speaking French, which everybody knows is an absurd language and troublesome to learn;—what with all these things, it tries the constitutions of some of the beasts, unless they are kept in nice warm dens and have food such as they have been accustomed to. The two elephants get on there very well, though. They were caught in the wilds of Abyssinia, where our soldiers went a year or two ago, and spent nine millions of money, to thrash the natives, because they wouldn't let some European prisoners go free. Then they were taken to Egypt—the elephants were—and were put on board a ship at Alexandria that they might make the voyage to Trieste. From there they went right through Germany, calling at Vienna and Berlin, and stayed a little while at Hamburg, where they took the boat for London. By that time you may be sure that they had seen a good deal of the world, and didn't want much acclimatisation till they got to Paris, where they were taught to display the accomplishments that had been acquired during their travels.

They can do several difficult things very gracefully, one of them being to dance on great wooden balls, or perform a light and elegant fandango on the tight-rope. They can play the trumpet, drink a toast in a glass of champagne without breaking the glass, and gently raise other people's hats with their long flexible trunks. Their keeper, who is a very intelligent servant, treats them with great respect, and assists them in their studies; so that, on the whole, they are pretty comfortable, and consent to carry some of their young friends on their backs when they visit the gardens—a piece of polite attention which they perhaps acquired from observing the exquisite hospitality of the English elephants at our own Zoological, where the accomplishments are taught by means of a frequent introduction to good society.

MR. W. E. BAXTER ON THE NAVY.—At a grand banquet last week at Perth, to celebrate the triumph of Liberal principles in the return of Mr. C. S. Parker for Perthshire at the last election, Mr. W. E. Baxter, in responding to the toast of "The Navy," said there were not many present who could ever have expected to hear a Dundee merchant respond in such an assembly to the toast of the British Navy. That such a thing should have happened was the result of a determination on the part of the present Government to infuse a little mercantile experience into the great spending departments of the State. They were convinced that considerable economies might be effected apart from any reduction of force. Acting on this principle, they were enabled to effect a diminution in the Navy Estimates for the year of nearly a million, and perhaps in February next a still further reduction would be witnessed. Mr. Baxter urged his audience not to suppose for a moment that they were sacrificing efficiency. To keep scores of useless clerks, to fill warehouses with several years' supply of deteriorating stores, to retain at great cost hulks which never can be sent to sea and which ought to be sold or distributed among the various ports as training-vessels, to encumber the dockyards with old materials, and multiply offices for the sake of patronage, were not the best methods of promoting the efficiency of our fleet. The present Board of Admiralty were most anxious that the Navy should be in first-rate condition, worthy of the position of the country and of the extent of her commerce. He believed that the President of the Board of Trade was in possession of returns which would show that the registered tonnage of Great Britain's commercial marine was nearly, if not quite, equal to the tonnage of the whole world. While the merchant navies of Holland, Spain, and many other countries were declining, while France had only fifty-eight ships over 800 tons burthen, the shipping of Great Britain continued to increase in a ratio which rendered the prognostics of the opponents of the repeal of the navigation laws absolutely ridiculous. Mr. Baxter added that he, for one, did not believe in fortifications, and thought the expenditure of so many millions upon them was delusive and lamentable. It was in the efficiency of our Navy that protection and defence were to be sought, and there would shortly be seen at Gibraltar a fleet by far the most powerful the world had ever seen. While he and his colleagues were determined to put an end to profuse expenditure and jobbery, they knew the nation took pride in its Navy, and were resolved it should in no respect suffer from any fault of theirs.

SUICIDE AT CLIFTON SUSPENSION BRIDGE.—Shortly after five o'clock last Saturday afternoon a young man threw himself over the Clifton Suspension Bridge into the mud-bed of the river. It was a very deliberate act on the part of the suicide, as he took off his hat, coat, and waistcoat, and placed them on the footway. He then climbed over the iron fence and hung on for a few seconds by both hands, and then by one hand, presently letting go altogether, and dropping into the mud, as it was low water, a depth of nearly 300 ft. below the bridge. Many people saw the act, but no one was on the bridge near enough to make an effort to prevent it. The body has been identified as that of Joel Cousens, a pastry-cook, of Bristol. The deceased, who was only nineteen, had been leading what is termed a "fast life," and had left home at half-past four, with the avowed intention of going to London. He was then well supplied with money; but, although scarcely an hour had elapsed before he had committed suicide, only eleven-pence was found on his body. What had become of the rest of his money in that brief interval remains a mystery.

DROUGHT IN THE WEST OF SCOTLAND.—The past summer has been an unusually dry one in the west of Scotland, and, in consequence, several of the towns on the estuary of the Clyde are beginning to suffer from want of sufficient water. In Greenock—where the rainfall from March 1 to the present date has been less than 18 in., or about half the usual quantity—the supply has been reduced to about thirty-four days for domestic purposes; and it has been resolved, at very considerable inconvenience to trade, to discontinue the supply to the chief public works, and to limit the quantity given to private consumers. At Dumbarton and other places a similar scarcity prevails. As yet there is no prospect of rain in the district.

ACTION FOR SLANDER AGAINST AN M.P.

At the Liverpool Assizes last week a charge of slander was preferred against Mr. Platt, M.P. Mr. Holker's statement for the plaintiff, Mr. Booth, was to the effect that on Oct. 27, 1868, Mr. Platt, who was one of the Liberal candidates for the representation of Oldham, addressed his supporters in the township of Chadderton, and in that speech he made a very furious attack on the plaintiff, Mr. Booth, the manager of Messrs. Lee's Chamber Collieries, and Mr. Bentley, chairman of the assessment committee of the Oldham board of guardians, charging them, in effect, that they had conspired to alter certain valuation lists, and thereby defrauded the township. The defendant pleaded not guilty, and also that his charge was true. Mr. Holker said that Messrs. Lee's had two collieries in the township of Oldham and also two in the township of Chadderton. It appeared that after the assessment of the property had been made in 1863, the plaintiff appealed, on the ground that the assessment was too high, and that in the case of the Chadderton collieries the gross estimated rental ought to be reduced by a sum of £900. Mr. Bentley came to the conclusion that £1400 should be the amount struck off for the collieries in Oldham, and that they should deal with the Chadderton collieries on the same principle. In 1867 there was a great contest in the township of Chadderton, with respect, he thought, to the election of guardians; and about this time somebody had his attention drawn to this valuation-list, and he came to the conclusion that there had been some improper alteration of that list in the township of Chadderton; the matter was brought before the then assessment committee, and a committee was appointed to investigate the matter. That investigation committee reported. Upon that the assessment committee, having that report before them, came to certain resolutions, one of which was:—"That from the report just read it is evident that the alterations of the various assessments in the township of Chadderton, of property belonging to the Chamber Colliery Company, were not made in accordance with the directions of the committee, but were evidently made by the then chairman of the board. Although the inquiries failed to prove an actual knowledge of the alterations at the time, yet they sufficiently show that the other persons mentioned in the report must have been aware shortly afterwards of the incorrectness of such alterations, and of the gross irregularity of having the valuation-lists of the township in Mr. Booth's house, and it was the duty of Mr. Hollingworth, the overseer, to have seen at once to the correction of the errors and omissions referred to." This was a resolution which was most unwarrantable. The investigation had evidently been conducted on a system which was entirely erroneous. Mr. Bentley and Mr. Booth were strong Conservatives, and Mr. Platt was a strong Liberal. Political feeling ran high in Chadderton, and it seems Mr. Platt got hold of this story, and in his speech he made the statement which was the libel charged. There was no doubt whatever that this speech was directed against Booth and Bentley and Hollingworth; and it was evident enough that such a speech should not have been made unless the utterer had satisfied himself beyond doubt of the truth of what he was stating.

Mr. Isaiah Booth, the plaintiff, said that he was a mining engineer, and the manager of Messrs. Lee's collieries. The alterations were made in his house and in his presence, and he understood that Mr. Bentley had the authority of the assessment committee for what was done. No wrong had been imputed to him in regard to the assessment until this speech of Mr. Platt.

Mr. Pope addressed the jury for the defence.

Mr. John Platt, M.P. was then called. He said his speech was based entirely on the report of the investigation committee and the resolution of the assessment committee, and when he made that speech he knew of no explanation which had been made.

In cross-examination he said he had seen the report some three months before he delivered his speech. He made no inquiry. The report was public property, and he felt justified in the remarks he made. He did not accuse anyone of personally robbing the township, but suggested that by the alteration of those books the rate-payers had lost a sum of money, and that the parties named in the report must have been privy to it; and that if the facts stated in the report were true there must have been a fraud. If he had heard Mr. Booth's evidence given that morning before, he might not have made the charge. He did not answer Mr. Booth's letter, because he thought he meant to make political capital. His observations were based on the report of the guardians, which had never been, as he understood, called in question or contradicted by the parties mentioned in the report.

The jury returned a verdict for the plaintiff—damages, one farthing.

Mr. Pope applied for leave for the defendant to move for a new trial, on the ground that the jury found that the words used by the defendant were used bona fide, and his Lordship granted it.

WORKING MEN'S CLUB AND INSTITUTE UNION.—Last Saturday about 200 members of the Working Men's Club and Institute Union made a visit of inspection to the works of the outfalls of the London sewage at Crossness Point and Barking Creek, under the guidance of Mr. Edward Hall, F.S.A., who, on the way down the river in a steamer, explained the general principles of the main-drainage system and the mechanical difficulties of the works. At Crossness Point the party were received by Mr. Houghton, the chief engineer, and shown over the works; but at the northern outfall they were not, it appeared, expected, and there were no means of landing on the works. The visitors, however, expressed themselves perfectly satisfied with what they had already seen, and, giving a most cheerful vote of thanks to Mr. Hall, returned in their boat to town.

ROYAL NATIONAL LIFE-BOAT INSTITUTION.—On Thursday a meeting of this institution was held at its house, John-street, Adelphi—Thomas Chapman Esq., F.R.S., V.P., in the chair. The minutes of the previous meeting having been read, rewards were granted to the crews of different life-boats of the society for going off to the aid of distressed vessels during the past month. It was reported that the Southport life-boat had been launched, on the 8th ult., to the assistance of the crew of the schooner William Wallace, of Dundalk, which was seen ashore on James's Bank, while the wind was blowing hard from N.W. The boat stayed by the vessel until she floated as the tide rose, and afterwards took her and her crew of five men to Lytham, where she was beached with 7 ft. of water in her hold. The Lytham life-boat went off to the same vessel, but returned when the other life-boat was seen alongside. The thanks of the institution, inscribed on vellum, and £2, were ordered to be presented to Captain C. Bell, of the steam-tug William Charles, of Hartlepool, and to Captain Matthew Jones, of the steam-tug John Bull, of Hartlepool, together with £5 to their crews, consisting of five men, in acknowledgment of their meritorious services in getting off the steamer, to save thirty-seven fishing-boats and their crews, which had been caught in a heavy gale from the N.E., off Hartlepool, on July 16; they also went out afterwards, and succeeded in picking up 360 nets belonging to the boats, for which they declined to receive any remuneration from the poor fishermen. Other rewards were also granted for saving life from wrecks on our coasts. The Earl of Stratford, P.C., had defrayed the cost of the new life-boat the institution was about to place on the island of Alderney, his Lordship having previously presented to the society the life-boat station at Weymouth. Life-boat demonstrations had taken place during the past month under the superintendence of the inspectors of life-boats at Sunderland, Montrose, and Worcester, all of them passing off most satisfactorily, thousands of people congregating at each place to witness the public naming and launch of the boat. New life-boats were being sent to Solva and Fishguard, South Wales. Payments amounting to £825 were ordered to be made on various life-boat establishments, and additional expenses at life-boat stations to the amount of £88 were also sanctioned. The committee passed a vote of condolence to the family of the late Captain Drummond, of Tenby, who had long been a zealous coadjutor of the institution at that place as the honorary secretary to its local committee. Reports were read from the inspector and the assistant inspector of life-boats on their recent visits to different life-boat stations. The proceedings then terminated.

THE TRADES UNION CONGRESS.—The Trades Union Congress at Birmingham terminated last Saturday. Amongst the subjects discussed at the final sitting was the direct representation of labour in Parliament. Complaints were made that matters of vital importance to working men did not receive the attention they deserved in Parliament, and it was recommended that efforts should be made to secure the election of representatives actually engaged in manual labour. It was further alleged that not only are working-class interests ineffectively represented in Parliament but also in the public press; and it was suggested that trades newspapers should be established. A resolution in favour of an international combination on the part of the working classes was adopted. The congress will hold its meeting next year in London.

ALLEGED EXTENSIVE FRAUDS.

At the Mansion House, on Tuesday, a well-dressed young man, who was stated to be an American, and who was described upon the police-sheet as W. W. Whelpley, of No. 4, Portsea-place, Connaught-square, Edgware-road, commission agent, was brought before Alderman Gabriel upon a warrant by Sergeant Brett, one of the City detectives, charged with obtaining the sum of £1000 by means of a forged security—to wit, a bill of lading for a large quantity of valuable timber, represented to be on board certain vessels that were on their voyage to London from Quebec.

While the prisoner was in the cell at the court, awaiting his examination, he had a fit, and fell to the ground and cut his face severely. A surgeon was immediately sent for, and the cuts were strapped up, but the prisoner presented a most ghastly appearance when he was placed in the dock. He seemed to be very ill, and was allowed to be seated during the examination.

Mr. Lewis, sen., of Ely-place, conducted the prosecution. The prisoner, who had only been apprehended on the previous evening, was unprovided with legal assistance.

It appeared from the opening of the case by the learned gentleman who conducted the prosecution that the charge was one of a very serious and somewhat peculiar character, and the offence appeared to have been committed with a great deal of ingenuity. The prosecutors were Messrs. Simpson and Mason, who carry on a very extensive business as timber-brokers, in St. Peter's-alley, Cornhill; and it seemed that, in the beginning of August, they received a letter purporting to come from Messrs. Damer and Hone, a firm carrying on an extensive business in Canada, informing them that a Mr. W. A. Armstrong, of Three Rivers, Canada, was coming to England on account of his health and also for business purposes; and he was described as a person of high character and integrity, with whom they might safely transact any business he might wish them to transact for him. This letter was of such a character, and the signature of the firm referred to was imitated in such an extraordinarily skilful manner, that Messrs. Simpson and Co. did not entertain the slightest doubt of its genuineness, and they were prepared to act on behalf of the supposed Mr. Armstrong in any way that he might require. On Aug. 10 a letter was received, dated from the Castle and Falcon Hotel, signed "W. A. Armstrong," requesting someone from the firm to come to him at that address, as he wished to see them upon business; and, accordingly, one of the prosecutors went to the Castle and Falcon, and was introduced to the prisoner as Mr. Simpson. The prisoner stated that he had four cargoes of very valuable timber on their way from Quebec to London, and he wished to obtain an advance of £3000 upon them. He at the same time produced three apparently genuine bills of lading referring to timber that was on board vessels called the Moss, the Florence Nightingale, and the Napoleon; and he proposed to lodge them with the prosecutors as security for the sum he required—viz., £3000; and he represented that the timber was of a peculiarly valuable quality, and that the three cargoes were worth £9000. The gentleman who was sent to communicate with the prisoner rather demurred to conclude so large a transaction without consulting his partners; and the prisoner treated the matter in a very off-hand manner, said that it did not signify; for if the prosecutors did not like to undertake the operation he could easily get it done elsewhere, at the same time observing that he must have £1000 directly, as he wanted to send it to Manchester. Believing that the transaction was a perfectly genuine one and being somewhat thrown off his guard by the plausible manners of the prisoner, the gentleman who had been sent from the prosecutors at last consented to let him have £1000 upon his depositing with the firm the three bills of lading referred to, and he proposed to transmit the money to Manchester to the person the prisoner wished to receive it; but he said that would not do, and he must have the amount in gold. Eventually, however, the sum of £1000 in Bank of England notes was given to the prisoner, and he handed to the prosecutors the bills of lading and a receipt for the amount. These bank-notes, it appeared, were immediately changed at the Bank of England for gold, and upon the arrival of the three vessels above named, a few days afterwards, it was discovered by the prosecutors that there was no such timber as had been represented by the prisoner on board them, that no such person as Armstrong was known to the captains of those vessels, and that the documents handed by the prisoner to the prosecutors as genuine bills of lading were forged, and worthless in every respect. The prisoner seemed to have been lost sight of immediately after the transaction, and it was at first thought that he had gone to America, and a warrant was obtained and an officer was about to have been sent in pursuit of him. Sergeant Brett, however, who appeared to have exhibited a good deal of zeal and activity in the matter, succeeded in obtaining information which led him to believe that the prisoner had not left England, and he managed to apprehend him, as above stated, on Monday evening. Mr. Lewis stated that at the time the arrest was made the prisoner was at supper with his wife, and there was a copious supply of champagne upon the table, and the officer also succeeded in obtaining possession of more than 400 sovereigns, and, upon the principle of "light come, light go," the prisoner appeared to have expended a considerable sum of money in the purchase of jewellery of all descriptions, which was no doubt part of the produce of the fraud, and which the officer also took possession of. The learned gentleman concluded by stating that, as the prisoner had only been so recently apprehended, there had not been sufficient time to procure the necessary evidence, and he should only on the present occasion prove sufficient against the prisoner to justify a remand.

The formal evidence that had been given by Mr. Mason, one of the firm, and a clerk in their employment at the time the warrant above narrated, was then read. It merely embodied the facts above narrated.

Sergeant Brett was then examined, and he stated that in consequence of information he received he went on Monday night to the residence of the prisoner, in Portsea-place, Edgware-road, accompanied by two other officers. He found the prisoner at supper with his wife, and he addressed him as Mr. Armstrong, and told him that he had a warrant for his apprehension for forging certain bills of lading and obtaining the sum of £1000 by means of them. The prisoner was very particular in hearing the warrant read over to him, and when he came to that part of the warrant which mentioned the place, Three Rivers, Canada, he said he was never there in his life. He also said that he had never been at the Castle and Falcon in his life. Witness searched the place, and in the bedroom he found a new black bag, which contained 419 sovereigns. He also found two gold watches, several gold Albert and other chains, a new opera glass, a diamond ring, and other articles of jewellery, all of which appeared to be quite new. He then took the prisoner to the police station, and when they arrived there the prisoner said to him, "Brett, you know me, and you know my name is not Armstrong, but Whelpley."

Upon this evidence the prisoner was remanded.

THE WEATHER AND THE CROPS.—The average temperature of the present week, as compared with last, appears to be fully ten degrees lower, while the difference between the ordinary temperature and the extremes of last week amount in some cases to between fifty and sixty degrees. Notwithstanding the fall of the thermometer, the reports to hand show that the weather continues very favourable for harvest operations. The bulk of the wheat crop will in all probability be gathered this week. The yield so far has exceeded expectations. In France the crops have been secured in good condition.

THE HOLYWELL EISTEDDFOD.—This Eisteddfod was opened on Tuesday, under the presidency of the Mayor of Chester. Crowds of people from all the surrounding districts poured into Holywell at an early hour in the morning, and a little after twelve o'clock a procession was formed, and the president was escorted to the Eisteddfod, which was celebrated in a large canvas-covered pavilion, decorated with bright-coloured flags and Welsh mottoes. The musical performances, the distribution of prizes, and the reading of poetical addresses were the most pleasing of the proceedings carried on underneath this huge tent. In the former Miss Edith Wynne, who is a native of Holywell, took part. In the evening a concert was given, at which Mr. Brinley Richards, as well as Miss Wynne, was present.

THE LOUNGER.

THE other day I steamed down Windermere to Bowness. On that very day the Liberals of Perthshire were celebrating the defeat of Sir William Stirling Maxwell by Mr. Parker. Now, little as you may think it, there was a thin thread of connection between these two events—my visit to Bowness and Mr. Parker's triumphal gathering at Perth. On landing at Bowness almost the first person I saw was the "Poet" Close. He lives and plies his trade here—his old trade of making and selling verses. He has, I think, no shop, but sits or walks about on the beach, his "works" in hand, pressing passers-by to purchase with more than sufficient pertinacity and impudence; but he does not trust entirely to his personal exertions. Like other traders, he advertises largely. On every wall in Bowness placards tell you that Poet Close may be found on the beach, and how he has been persecuted, and how Cabinet Ministers and even Princes have written to him. When I was here some years ago the poet looked but seedy, and seemed to be down on his luck, but now he appears to be in very good fettle. But what is the connection between the poet and the Perthshire banquet? Well, do you not remember that Sir William Stirling Maxwell was the man who brought the grant of £40 a year, made by Lord Palmerston out of the literary fund to the poet, before the House of Commons, and got it rescinded? Depend upon it, that when Perthshire rejected Sir William no man rejoiced more than Poet Close. He is, in his writings, very bitter against Sir William; and be sure that his defeat in Perthshire was a sweet morsel of revenge for the poet to roll under his tongue. I should not be surprised to learn that when he heard the news he burst forth in song; and no wonder, for really the poor man was not well treated. It was not his fault that £40 a year was granted to him, and the grant having been made, Palmerston should have refused to rescind it. For Poet Close is no impostor. He really believes that he is a true poet. I do not think, though, that he is badly off. Bowness is visited by crowds of excursionists, and amongst them I think he finds in the season a good market for his wares. Every misfortune, philo-ophers tell us, is compensated by a mercy; and it is not unlikely that the rescinding of the grant, with the debate thereon in the House and the comments upon the case in the press, by making him notorious, helped to put money in his purse. And now, dropping the poet, a word or two about the Perthshire banquet. It was a grand gathering, that at Perth. The Lord Advocate was there, the highest State functionary in Scotland. So important are his duties and so extensive are his powers that he is sometimes called "King of Scotland." There was also the Earl of Dalhousie, better known as Lord Panmure—or, earlier still, as Mr. Fox Maule. Lord Kinnaird, the Lord Lieutenant, too, condescended to grace the board; and Lord Rollo. In the *Times* report he is called Lord Rollo and Dunning; but this, I think, is a mistake. It should be, according to "Debrett," Lord Rollo of Duncrub. Dalhousie and Kinnaird are peers of the United Kingdom; Lord Rollo is a Scottish peer. From 1860 to 1868 he was, though, a representative peer; but in 1868 he and the Earl of Kellie had an equal number of votes, and the election had to remain in abeyance till the House of Peers could settle it. I suppose it is settled now, but how I know not. Mr. Baxter, the Secretary of the Admiralty, was of course present, for he had much to do with this contest in Perthshire, as I will presently show; and, equally of course, the Hon. Mr. Kinnaird, for he represents Perth—and, moreover, is very fond of a good dinner, as everybody knows. Nor must we forget to mention the Scotch Lord of the Treasury, Mr. Patrick Adam, M.P. for Clackmannanshire; nor Mr. Parker, the hero of the triumph. Altogether, then, this was, as I have said, a grand gathering. Glittering as it did with three coronets, one might, indeed, call it brilliant. "And the thing went off very well, Sir; surprisingly well, Sir;" and, considering the composition of the assembly—the discordant elements were not noticeable to strangers, but observable to the experienced eye of your Lounger—the thing did go off remarkably well. For this gathering, pleasant as all appeared, was really a happy-family sort of meeting, the animals being tamed for the occasion. Smooth on the surface, there were underneath differences and antagonisms, political and ecclesiastical, which, if this had been a meeting of Irishmen, might have spoilt the harmony of the assembly. Thus, my Lord Advocate is a Whig, and, except under pressure of party exigency, nothing more. On the other hand, the Secretary for the Admiralty is an earnest, impetuous Radical. The Lords, we may presume, are members of the Scottish Establishment. The Lord Advocate is a Free Churchman, believing in Establishments, though belonging to a Dissenting Church. Mr. Baxter is an Independent Dissenter—probably the first "Independent" that has sat on the Treasury bench for 200 years. But here is a little incident in the history of the contest which shows that at heart these gentlemen are not quite so harmonious as they seem. It was Mr. Baxter who suggested that Perthshire should be fought. He had examined the register and felt the pulse of the people, and on the very eve of the election telegraphed to one whom I will not name, "If you can send a man, we can win Perthshire." A contest for Perthshire had been thought of, but, no resident being available, the Whig magnates had given it up. When it was proposed to get a stranger, they shook their heads. Liberals as they were, these incursions of strangers into Scotch counties were unpalatable. But the unnamed gentleman, though all this had been urged upon him, when Baxter's telegram arrived, pushed aside all objections, and promptly telegraphed, "A man shall be sent forthwith;" and in a few hours Mr. Parker was on his way. The Whig landlords did not like it. They said it was imprudent and needlessly offensive, "for he can't win; that's impossible." Well, he did win, as we know; but, though these magnates went to the dinner and joined in the hurrahs, this incursion of strangers is not palatable to them, you may be sure. But all these differences of opinion were kept down surprisingly well; nor is the reason far to seek. First, these men are Scots, not Hibernians. One of the characteristics of the Scots is a power of self-control. Then there comes in loyalty to party; and, lastly, that principle not more characteristic of Scotsmen than of Irish and English, "not readily to quarrel with your bread and butter."

That Lord Rollo, of Duncrub, whom I never heard of before, made a very startling declaration—one, indeed, that no English peer would have made. He advocates the prompt liberation of every Church from State control. This confirms what a Scotch member whispered in my ear just before the House broke up, when the Royal assent had been given to the Irish Church Bill. "Our turn (he said) will come next; and so fast in this direction is public opinion growing in Scotland, that it would not surprise me in the least if the Scottish Church in a few years were to petition for disestablishment."

Civilisation is advancing here in Cumberland, as elsewhere. I will give you an instance. On the top of mountain pass there is a roadside inn. As this is only seven miles from my abode, I used, when in this district before, often to visit it. I liked the plain, rough character of the house, and its simple but excellent cheer. You entered directly into a stone-paved, capacious kitchen. On your right was a deal settle; under the window, on your left, a long deal table. Several shepherd-dogs were sprawling on the floor; a gun hung on the beam; fishing rods stood in the corners of the room. Such was the apartment. The cheer was mutton-chops, ham and eggs, or, it might be—could be, indeed, always with due notice—a joint of mountain mutton; and everything was cooked to perfection. The bread was brown, home-baked; the butter home-made and delicious; the ale, Burton—kept in a cellar scooped out of the rock—clear and sparkling. In short, everything was good. But civilisation has changed all this. Last week I mounted to my favourite hostel, determined to dine there. The first thing that I observed was a change of name on the signboard. When I opened the door I found myself in a hall, or passage. "Walk into the parlour," said a smart woman, with cape over her shoulders ornamented with bangles. I entered, and found that the parlour had been cut out of the kitchen; and, ah! how different to my old favourite room. It was carpeted; the settle was gone, and so was the table; the

walls had been papered; muslin curtains hung on each side of the window; and cotton network covered the chairs. No dogs, of course, were admitted; no fishing-rods nor guns allowed. I sighed, but consoled myself with the hope that the cheer would be good as ever; but, alas! I was sadly disappointed. "Let me have some mutton chops," said I. "We have none, Sir." "What! a sheep farmer, and no mutton chops! What can I have?" "There is a roast leg of mutton; it is almost cold, but we can warm it up in our oven." I half shuddered, but submitted. In twenty minutes it came, and it was tainted. "Take it away!" I shrieked. "Will you have some boiled beef, Sir?" "Yes." It was brought. It was rolled cow flank, salted, and as tough as leather. I turned in despair to the bread, but that, too, was changed; instead of home-baked brown, it was baker's, white and new. It short, all was changed. The ale was muddy; the brandy cloudy, and what that means we know. And so, paying my 1s. 8d. for what I had not eaten, I took up my staff and walked, staying my appetite as well as I could with some biscuits from my pocket, vituperating civilisation the while—at least this phase of it.

The management of affairs in Scotland-yard does not appear to have improved with the change of rulers. Complaints of police incompetence were rife—and with reason—in Sir Richard Mayne's time; but, under Colonel Henderson, incompetence seems to have been succeeded by misconduct. Perjury on the part of police officers is coming to be looked upon as a thing of course, and appears to be regarded by the chiefs of the force as altogether a venial offence. Scarcely a week passes without an instance occurring in which policemen are convicted of false swearing of the grossest kind, the offenders being usually let off scot-free, or with only a nominal punishment. The latest specimen of police perjury was in a case tried before Mr. Serjeant Cox and a jury the other day. A man named Marshall was accused by Nunn, a constable, with committing a violent assault upon him in the execution of his duty. Evidence for the defence was brought to prove that the policeman was the aggressor, that he was drunk, and had been drinking all the evening, in company, among other persons, with one of the witnesses. The stories told on each side being directly contradictory the one of the other, the presiding Judge told the jury that gross perjury had been committed, and directed them that they must decide by whom. The jury acquitted Marshall, thereby declaring that they believed him and his witnesses, and disbelieved the policeman Nunn; in other words, that they were of opinion Nunn had committed perjury. I have not yet heard that Constable Nunn has been dismissed from the force. Will Colonel Henderson tell us if he is likely to be?

That indefatigable explorer and exposé of the "dark places" of London and the social nuisances that exist therein, Mr. James Greenwood, the famous "Amateur Casual," is still labouring in his useful vocation, I see. In a letter published in the *Star* on Wednesday he gives a description of a region in Cow-cross known as "Jack Ketch's Warren," and of what has been done to cleanse that compound of Gomorrah and the Augean stable. The quarter, it appears, is a moral and physical pestilential den: crime, filth, and disease having made it their peculiar home. An attempt has recently been made to get the provisions of the Artisans' Dwellings Act brought to bear on this region, with the view of having the foul and rickety tenements therein pulled down and rebuilt. But the Clerkenwell vestry are tender of landlords' interests, while they care nothing for those of the miserable inhabitants (or of the public, for that matter, whose health is endangered by the existence of such hotbeds of pestilence), and so the effort failed. I cannot quote the facts in detail; but everybody who takes an interest in sanitary matters should read Mr. Greenwood's letter, and see how vestries perform their duty of taking care of the public welfare.

THE LITERARY LOUNGER.

THE MAGAZINES.

The *Cornhill*, besides other good matter, contains two papers which will attract much attention—"How Young Folks Amused Themselves in the Classical Period," and "On the War-Path." Here is a horrible story:—

The Indians rarely kill children, but invariably carry the women into captivity, and subject them to a fate worse than death. I do not wonder at those women who have been captured rarely caring to return again to civilisation. Among the Apaches and Comanches are numbers of Mexican women who refuse to return. A most pitiful case, however, came to my knowledge a few years ago. Some Red River hunters found at Bute Isle, on the other side of the Côteau du Missouri, a number of Sioux lodges. The Indians had living among them a beautiful American girl of sixteen, who had been at school in St. Paul's when the Sioux war broke out. She begged the hunters to purchase her; but an old Sioux, who treated her as his wife, demanded as her price a puncheon of rum, a chest of tea, two horses, and some powder and shot. It was in vain that the hunters promised to give this price upon the delivery of the woman at Fort Edmonton. They had not the price demanded, and so were compelled to leave her to her fate. The poor girl cried piteously as they moved off, the old Sioux watching her angrily. She seemed to be tolerably well used; though it is stated that the Indian squaws are very jealous of their white rivals, and ready to heap every possible indignity and cruelty upon them.

The following is the writer's conclusion:—

In conclusion, I may state that, though it is rather difficult to get a correct census, there is good reason to believe that the tribes now existing in the States do not number much more than 300,000. Yet, when America was discovered, there were probably more than 15,000,000 of aborigines. War, whisky, smallpox and other diseases, as well as that indescribable "something," which no savage can stand before, has reduced them to the present handful—and every year their number grows smaller and smaller.

The paper is signed "A Government Agent." There is another "Japanese Sermon," and very amusing it is.

"My Evening's Daughter" in *Belgravia* is as good as ever; and Mr. Sals, in "Doll's Houses in General," is not only entertaining—he is informing; at least, he tells me one or two things I did not know before.

The *Reformatory and Refuge Journal* I always look at. But it ought to be made infinitely better. How does it happen that a periodical which might easily be made as interesting as a romance is kept as dull as a table of logarithms? In the present number we have an account of the meeting of the "Union" in Exeter Hall, which is made ridiculous by Judge Payne's ineffectual rubbish. Here is a verse from his "2476" tail-piece:—

Follow the Earl in goodness and grace,
Follow the Earl at a suitable pace,
Follow the Earl in his labours to leave,
And follow the Earl to the kingdom of Heaven.

I have not the smallest desire to make game of anything good; but why is it that this magazine is not something like what it ought to be? The resources in the hands of the "Union" people must be immense—I mean, resources in the shape of anecdote and the history of the movement.

The *Sunday at Home* is much too narrow for my taste; but the little story of "Alone in London" is very charming, and I know more than one person who has read it right through—not without a little moisture in the eyes. The picture of St. David's Cathedral in the present monthly part deserves high praise. One wishes serious writers of a certain school had just a little sense of humour. In a memoir of the Rev. Dr. Cooke, a well-known Irish Presbyterian, I find the following ludicrous passage:—

In 1821 a Unitarian minister, Mr. Smithurst, arrived in Ulster from England, and travelled from place to place trying to make converts to his views. He visited Killyleagh and preached there. Cooke heard him, and on the spot most effectually refuted his arguments. With gathering indignation he followed him from town to town: . . . there was no escape for the Unitarian apostle from the restless energy of his opponent . . . and in a few weeks the despairing Unitarian disappeared from Ulster.

I have no doubt the writer of the memoir will fail to see the fun of this.

The *Leisure Hour* quotes the *Daily News* against the practice of leaving magazines and books uncut, and urges that there is "something to be said on the other side":—

A paperknife, with a comfortable handle and effective blade, is not an unpleasant library tool. To cut the pages of a new book or magazine is no great toil, but rather an agreeable diversion as we read. It also lessens the

temptation to turn over the pages of a book too hastily. Besides, there would be risk of carelessly cutting by machine workers, so that the pages, when bound, would often have shabby and insufficient margin.—ED. L. II. There may be something in the last point; but all hard-worked readers will agree that the "diversion" of cutting the leaves of a book is not "agreeable" when the reading is a matter of business. If the argument that the necessity of going through the process lessens the temptation to read too hastily is good so far, it is good farther still. Cannot we devise some means of making the process still slower? As to magazines, I believe readers—and I am sure reviewers—will with one voice exclaim, Cut the leaves for us! *Macmillan* and the *Victoria* come cut, and a great comfort it is. I have frequently to invoke help in cutting the leaves of books and periodicals—so much time does it occupy, when there is a good deal of reading to be done.

THE THEATRICAL LOUNGER.

September has ushered in a change of weather, and, with cooler breezes, managers are preparing to welcome back paying audiences. With the London public proper—or I might say improper, maybe—nothing has gone down but "Formosa," Drury Lane being crowded nightly.

Of novelties I can but chronicle one at the West-End, and that is the advent of the Swanborough travelling company, who have appeared in the burlesque of "The Pilgrim of Love." They have proved successful; the ladies of the company being quite up to the average, whilst Mr. Edward Terry has made a hit by his very humorous and clever rendering of the King of Toledo. Hissing of a pathetic ditty with sorrowful mirth well deserved the double encore it received.

On Monday night, on my return from the Harvard and Oxford dinner (where, by-the-way, Charles Dickens, I am glad to record, was in great force), I heard that the *GAIETY* had been on fire. Luckily, on inquiry, I found out that, though six fire-engines had been summoned to the spot, it was a false report. The fact was, that some of the workmen had been testing the kitchen-range of the new restaurant, which is at the top of the house. This experiment they carried out so effectually as to alarm the neighbours with the notion that the theatre was really on fire.

Mr. Vining has closed his doors, and "Acis and Galatea" has travelled to Worcester. I see Mr. Vining promises the public a revival of Handel's opera when town is fuller, but I fancy the experiment had best be left alone. Mr. Boucicault's new piece is promised at this theatre on Sept. 20. At the *GLOBE* Mr. Sefton Parry is busy with Mr. T. W. Robertson's new comedy to be entitled "Progress;" and the *DELPHI* opens its doors, *on dit*, on the 15th inst., with a joint production by Messrs. Byron and Boucicault. At the *PRINCE OF WALES*'s no change will take place. "School" will again hold its sway, the performers having had but a very short vacation of fourteen days accorded them. Notwithstanding assertions to the contrary, I hear that Miss Oliver may perhaps give up the reins of management at the *ROYALTY*. If so, she will find a home, it is reported, at the new theatre about to be built in the Strand, which Mr. Phipps, the architect of the Queen's and the *Gaiety*, has in hand. This, I think, comprises a full budget of gossip of one of the dullest theatrical weeks in the year.

MAGNETS IN WATCHES.—An American watchmaker has made a chance discovery that the balance-wheel in nearly every watch is, if made of steel, converted into a magnet. By what process in the manufacture it has become one it might be difficult to say; but whether the wheel be indeed a magnet or not may easily be discovered by fixing it upon a small piece of cork, letting it float in still water, and seeing if it always turns in one direction. The fact of the magnetic character of the wheel will account for many perturbations in watches which have hitherto been inexplicable. A key or the steel blade of a knife in the same pocket as the watch will exert a disturbing influence. But even if there should be no piece of steel in the pocket, the magnet will necessarily tend towards the north, and so far interfere with the calculations of the watchmaker in a very delicate piece of mechanism.

DEATH OF MR. E. C. EGERTON, M.P.—The death of Mr. Edward Christopher Egerton, one of the members for North Cheshire, is reported from Italy. The hon. gentleman was the fourth son of the late Mr. Wilbraham Egerton, of Tatton Park, and was a younger brother of Lord Egerton of Tatton. He was born in 1816, and in 1845 was married to a daughter of the second Earl Manvers. Mr. Egerton was educated at Harrow, and at Christ Church, Oxford, where he graduated B.A. and obtained a fellowship. He represented Macclesfield from 1852 to December last, when he was returned in the Conservative interest for North Cheshire without opposition. When Lord Derby formed his third Government, in July, 1866, Mr. Egerton was appointed Under-Secretary for Foreign Affairs, and this office he retained until Mr. Disraeli resigned the Premiership, nine months ago. The Northern, like the other divisions of Cheshire, is strongly Conservative; but it is stated that an agricultural party is in favour of Sir E. W. Watkin as the new member. Sir Edward formerly represented Stockport, but was defeated at the last election.

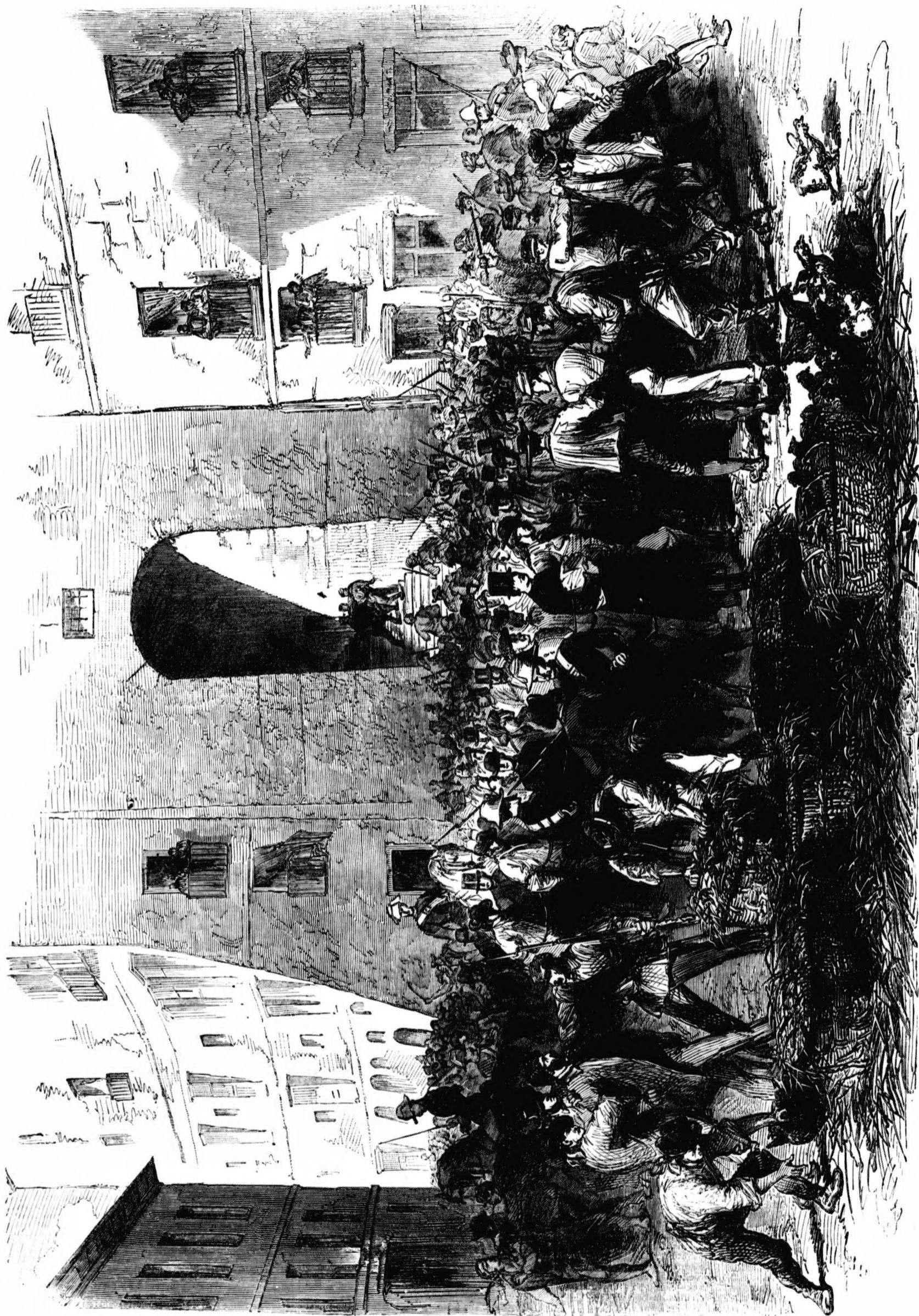
TRADE RETURNS.—The Board of Trade returns, issued on Tuesday, show the state of our imports and exports for the first six months of the year. As against 1868 there was a decrease in the imports of £3,795,027, and against 1867 a decrease of £2,705,348. There was a reduction of about seven millions sterling in the value of our corn importation, and over four millions in the value of imported cotton. Most of the remaining articles show an increase. In the exports there was an increase of 8 per cent on the transactions of the six months. Nearly all our principal descriptions of goods were exported in larger quantities, but the increase is most marked in woolen manufactures. In the imports for the month of June, the latest for which returns are completed, there was a considerable falling off; but, on the other hand, in the exports for the month of July there was a balance on the side of improvement of over a million and a half sterling.

PAUPER CHILDREN.—An important proposal was brought before the St. Pancras guardians on Monday. A letter was read from a lady who offered to find board and lodgings for a number of the children who are now in the workhouse. Several of the guardians recognised the desirability of bringing up the children apart from the pauperising influences which surround them at present, and from which a sad percentage of both the boys and girls go into society depraved. It was thought that the children might be boarded out in the country with great advantage. The whole subject is to be brought before the guardians. In Scotland the experiment has been a complete success.

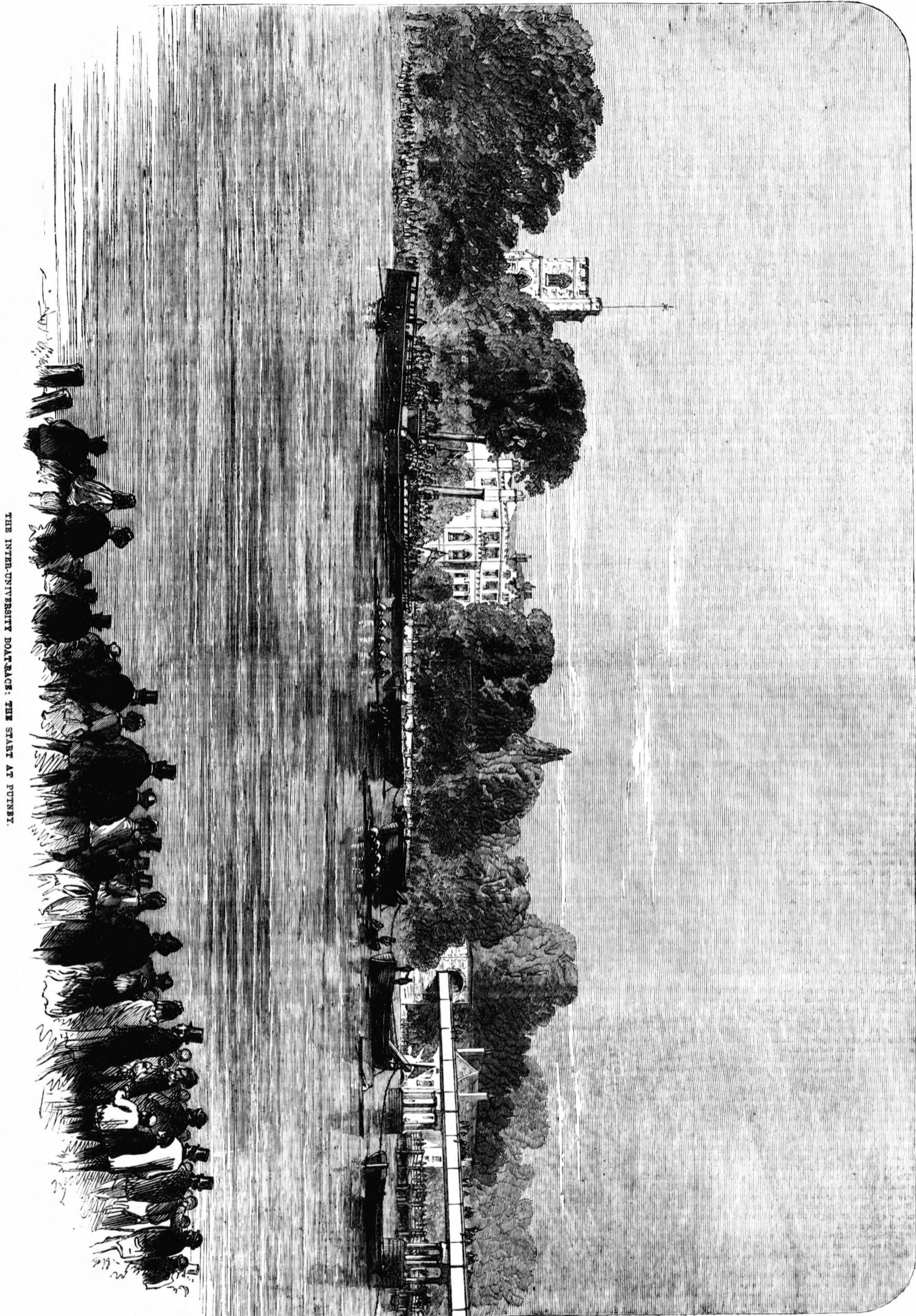
THE NEW SAVINGS-BANK INVESTMENT ACT.—At the end of last Session an Act was passed to amend the law relating to the investments in savings-banks and Post-Office savings banks. The payment of annuities under the Act recited has been half-yearly, and the object of the Act is to cancel the same, and that terminable annuities payable at various periods during the year should be substituted for them. New annuities may now be created terminable not later than July 5, 1885, chargeable on the Consolidated Fund, payable at times to be fixed by the warrant of the Treasury Commissioners. The Act provides for the investment of such surplus annuities by the Commissioners for the Reduction of the National Debt as are not for the time being required to pay the demands of the trustees of savings-banks. Several statutes recited in the schedules to the Act are now repealed.

THE ALBERT ASSURANCE COMPANY.—A numerous meeting of the shareholders in the Albert Life Assurance Society was held at the offices last Saturday, at which a resolution was unanimously passed that the concern should be registered under the Joint-Stock Companies Act of 1862. This course was adopted in order that the shareholders, at a future meeting, might have the power to decide that the company should be wound up voluntarily rather than be allowed to go into Chancery. Mr. Price, one of the provisional official liquidators, read a lengthened report, giving a history of the company's transactions from its formation, in 1858, to the present time. A discussion took place, in the course of which much information was elicited respecting the compensation given to the officials belonging to the various undertakings which have been absorbed by the Albert, and it appeared that about twenty-five or twenty-six persons had in this way received sums varying from £150 to £15,000. Although no formal resolution was come to, a general feeling was expressed in favour of some such scheme of reconstruction as that which has been placed before the public.

A large meeting of policy-holders in the Albert Office was held, on Wednesday, in the Free Trade Hall, Manchester. A resolution was proposed and carried unanimously, and amidst much cheering, declaring that the management of the company had been both extravagant and reckless, censuring the board of directors, and especially the late and present manager, stating that the policy-holders could feel no confidence so long as Mr. Austin Kirby remained one of the provisional liquidators, and expressing the hope that those who had been guilty of bringing the company to its present disastrous position might be called upon to answer for it before a proper tribunal. Meetings of the Albert policy-holders in North Germany have passed resolutions against liquidation, and against the proposed scheme of reconstruction. The policy-holders in Prussia call for a declaration of bankruptcy in the ordinary judicial way. They express their intention of seeking the intervention of the North German Government.



CARLIST PRISONERS RECAPTURED BY THE POPULACE IN THE POULTRY MARKET, MADRID.



THE INTER-UNIVERSITY BOATRACE: THE START AT PUTNEY.

FASHIONS FOR SEPTEMBER.

(From "Le Follet.")

IT is no easy task to be a chronicler of "The Fashions" at this season of the year. The fashionable world is scattered—enjoying invigorating sea-breezes or delightful mountain air; some, content with the quiet calm of country life; others, seeking strength, "drinking the waters," and participating in the various gaieties that which usually characterise the lovely places noted for their health giving waters. When it is remembered that "La Mode" is supposed to provide a different style for each, and even that which is appropriate for one watering-place is not "the thing" for another, we are sure our readers will indorse our opening sentence.

To be truthful, we must admit that most fanciful and exaggerated costumes are seen; but equally truthfully may we affirm that the real lady avoids exaggeration and eccentricity in dress, and some of the most elegant toilettes are not only the simplest but the least costly. It is a well understood thing that far more depends on the make and general finish of the dress than on the costliness of the material; and not a little of the effect (pleasing or otherwise) is produced by the make of the petticoats—avoiding the tight, meagre scantiness affected by some of our countrywomen, and the frightfully ungraceful tournaise adopted by others.

Light and thin materials are nearly all made in short costumes now, excepting, of course, when destined merely for evening wear or for ceremonial visits. White écrù or maize are the shades generally preferred. These are trimmed in a variety of fashions, black velvet still being the most usual trimming. Valenciennes is also much used in combination with the velvet. Plaited flounces remain much in vogue. Chiria crêpe, châlal, and striped sultane make the most elegant costume. Crêpe de soie, foulard, piqué, batiste, toile, percale, and cashmere with taffeta, are all worn. White is, above all, suitable for seaside wear, almost every colour being more or less injured by the sea air. Plain black gauze, trimmed with black, worn over a skirt of light-coloured silk, is very pretty. There are also some very elegant dresses made of black tulle, embroidered with bouquets of coloured flowers—some with large pansies, with their foliage, the pattern running crossways on the skirt; others with flowers of a variety of colours. These are made en tunique over skirts of black, white, or coloured silk. Upper short dresses of black taffeta are found extremely useful, especially for travelling. They can be worn with a variety of under-skirts, and make a nice change of toilette.

Taffeta is coming again into favour somewhat, principally, we presume, from the fact of its being less liable to crumple and tear than the thinner materials necessitating such frequent change. However, so long as the warm weather continues, there is little doubt these latter will be generally preferred.

We find not unfrequently that under skirts are trimmed with bouillonnés, with a heading. If the upper skirt be of leno, pale-coloured barège, or sultane, the bouillonnés are headed with a narrow fringe of Valenciennes; if the colour be a dark shade, with a narrow black guipure, or simply a binding of taffeta at each edge.

English poplin will be fashionable for autumn wear. On this black velvet and Valenciennes are used in trimming; the velvet laid on the flounces, which are scalloped, and the lace sewn on the edge of the scallops. Poplin and cashmere are very suitable for short costumes; for instance, the under skirt made of poplin, white striped with a colour, the flounce or flounces piped with a silk of the colour of the stripe. The upper skirt of plain cashmere, matching the stripe, trimmed with plissé, or with thick chenille fringe, and looped up at the sides and back, or only at the sides, according to taste. Plaid is also likely to be in favour as the season advances. Scarlet, mauve, and sky-blue under skirts are worn by some ladies at the sea side; but in this case the upper skirt would be of either grey or black. The most simple evening dress at the watering-places is a skirt of light silk, with a thin high tunique, white or matching the under-skirt, opened in front, and with a sash of silk.

We will now endeavour to give a description of some of the most useful pattern toilettes.

A costume of nankeen piqué or batiste; the under skirt just escaping the ground, trimmed with a plissé of a medium width; upper skirt trimmed to match (the plissé being narrower) looped up at each side in three large plaits, fastened by a mother-of-pearl button. One large plait in the middle of the back, also finished by a button. The body opened *en cour*, with a small basquine trimmed round with a narrow plissé. Tight sleeve, with a mousquetaire cuff, edged with plissé, and with a narrow guipure put on just easy; guipure to match round the opening of the body. Sash of black gros-grain silk.

A costume of lilac and drab shot silk, the skirt just touching the ground, and trimmed with several narrow flounces. Body opened square, and basques cut up and turned back. Sleeves half tight, and rather wide at the bottom. Body and sleeves trimmed with a narrow frill.

Costume of plain white barège, made with five flounces. Basquine of striped lilac and white barège, with two small basques fastened on the body, which is cut square, and full in the front. White scarf-sash of white tulle, matching the fichu worn under the body.

Seaside costume. Under skirt of white serge, with three flounces edged with black velvet. Tunic, rounded in front, made into a double panier behind, trimmed with one flounce. Black velvet sash, with three bows without ends. Very short veste, with revers of black velvet.

Costume of pearl-grey poplin.—Under skirt trimmed with three rows of wide black velvet. "Metternich" mantle of poplin, fastened at the waist by a black velvet sash, and trimmed with a wide black chenille fringe. Black velvet buttons.

Costume of white percale.—Nine narrow flounces, edged with Valenciennes. Casque of the same, with two flounces. Wide scarf-sash, of red, green, and white plaid.

Costume of brown taffeta.—Skirt with several narrow flounces, edged with cashmere of the same colour; the same cashmere forming basques, which are trimmed with silk fringe. Taffeta sash, trimmed with cashmere.

Evening dress of white muslin, over rose-coloured silk.—The muslin skirt is trimmed with a gathered flounce, vandyked at each edge, and is short enough to show the plaited flounce of the under-skirt. Two long pates, rounded and trimmed with lace, fall on each side, upon which are placed three bouquets of flowers. Puff of muslin, forming a panier, and looped up by a bouquet of flowers. Rose taffeta body, cut square and low. Chemisette of white silk, open and crossed in front; bouquet at the side. Short sleeves.

Robe of white talatian, draped with hanging bows of blue satin. Upper skirt of white taffeta, with pouff behind trimmed with a ruche of blue satin. Low body and basques, trimmed to match. Fichu of plaited tulle under the body.

There is little to say about bonnets for the present month, as hats take up the attention of most modistes at this season; still there are many elegant models, from which we select, first, the "Bouquet," so called because it is really a bouquet of moss-rosebuds, elegantly arranged on the summit of the head, with brides of plaited pink gauze.

"L'Elégant," of white gauze, with brides of the same carried round the chin, and fastened at the side by a blue velvet butterfly. A bow of blue velvet above the forehead, and long white feather falling over the chignon.

A third, of white straw, with bandeau of black velvet, on which are three pink roses separated by coques of black gauze, which continues so as to form brides, fastened at the side under a rose.

A fanion of black lace, trimmed with black and white grapes; a full-blown rose at the side, rather high up, and a second behind the ear close to the chignon. Short rounded brides of black lace, fastened under the chin, and black satin strings, tied under the chignon.

LIBRARY OF THE BRITISH MUSEUM.

DURING the past year 42,331 volumes and pamphlets were added to this library (including books of music and volumes of newspapers), of which 992 were presented, 6099 were received in pursuance of the laws of English copyright, 346 were received under the international copyright treaties, and 34,894 were acquired by purchase. There were added also 33,403 parts of volumes (or separate numbers of periodical publications and of works in progress). A total of 1145 sets of newspapers were received from the Inland Revenue offices of the United Kingdom, of which 131 were published in Scotland, 138 in Ireland, 238 in London, and 638 in the rest of England. Of music, 2121 pieces were acquired, each piece complete in itself, of which 1527 were received by English and 576 by international copyright, and 18 were purchased. Of 779 portions of musical works in progress, 473 were received by English and 306 by international copyright; and 253 works of music of greater extent than single pieces were also acquired, comprising 25 by English, 66 by international copyright, and 162 by purchase. A total of 5773 articles were received in the department, not included in the foregoing enumeration of volumes and parts of volumes, consisting of playbills, single pieces of music, broad-sides, songs, ballads, and other miscellaneous items, giving a grand total of 81,507 articles received during 1868 in the department.

A total of 757 Oriental manuscripts were added to the collection during the past year, consisting of 355 in Ethiopic, 266 Persian, 66 Arabic, 21 Coptic, 13 Hindustani; 5 each Hindi, Telugoo, Afghan, and To rkic; 4 each Hebrew and Armenian, 3 Sanscrit, 2 each Burmese and Cingalese, and 1 Tamil. The Hamilton and Abyssinian collections are included in the above total, the former of which consists of 352 manuscripts, chiefly Persian and Arabic, selected from a collection of about 1100 volumes found in India, chiefly at the time of the mutiny, by the late Colonel George William Hamilton, Commissioner of Delhi, and including a large number of books from the Royal library at Lucknow. The Abyssinian collection, which is due to the late war, was presented by the Secretary of State for India, and comprises 339 volumes, handsomely written on vellum, selected from about 1000 books captured at Mazdala. Sixteen volumes originally belonging to the same collection were set apart for presentation to her Majesty, six of which were retained for the Royal library and the rest returned to the Museum. This unequalled collection embraces the whole range of Ethiopic literature, all branches of which are most fully represented, and it forms also a curious series of Abyssinian calligraphy and miniature-painting, ranging from the fifteenth to the present century.

A CONFLICT OF AUTHORITY.

A CURIOUS illustration of the inconvenient working of the State and national judicial authority recently occurred in the city of New York, which induced bristling bayonets to be displayed in rather angry fashion. The cause of it was an individual named Pratt, a Texas desperado, who had been a Major in the Confederate service. Pratt was said to be the leader of a dangerous band of Texan bandits, and in the autumn of 1868, with thirty-six of his band, was captured by the military and lodged in gaol at Jefferson, Texas. On Oct. 4, by a preconcerted plan, the prisoners broke gaol and escaped, killing three soldiers and wounding several others in their fight with the guards. Pratt, after wandering about the world, followed by detectives, finally appeared a few days ago in New York, and on Aug. 5 was arrested there by the United States Marshal on a warrant issued by a United States Commissioner, charging him, on information through the War Department, with having committed murder and broken gaol in the above manner, and also with having then and there committed the crime of treason against the United States. The prisoner was, on this warrant, heard and committed without bail to Ludlow-street gaol in New York city. His counsel then made application for the writ of habeas corpus, first to Judge Blatchford, of the United States Court; and then, having for prudential reasons withdrawn this petition, to Judge McCunn, of the Superior Court of New York city, a State Judge famous as a champion of "State rights." On Aug. 11 Judge McCunn delivered an opinion, stating that Pratt was illegally held, and ordering his discharge from custody. The United States Marshal refused to obey the mandate, holding that he, as a United States officer, was not obliged to obey writs from State Courts. This return was made to Judge McCunn, and he at once issued an attachment for contempt, commanding the arrest of the Marshal. General Barlow, the Marshal, hearing of this, hurried his prisoner from New York gaol to Fort Schuyler in the harbour, for safe keeping, and, reporting the facts to the President, asked for protection. The President promptly answered with an order directing him "to maintain the laws of the United States and to resist all efforts to take the prisoner. J. H. Pratt, from your custody, whether by order of Judge McCunn or any other officer in any of the State Courts. I also authorise and request you to use all means to resist the attempt to effect your arrest and stop the execution of the laws of the United States." These proceedings caused great excitement in New York, which was further intensified by the Marshal calling in the military to aid him. About daylight on Aug. 13 a body of 150 troops landed from the forts in the harbour and marched to Chambers-street, where the United States Court is situated, taking possession of the building and guarding the approaches to it. A crowd of people soon gathered and all sorts of rumours spread through the city. McCunn's court was just over the way, and he saw from his windows the Marshal's camp opposite. His attachment was not "served," and the report was that he intended to call upon the Sheriff for aid, the State militia being his posse, who were to capture the stubborn Marshal. The Sheriff, however, was just then endeavouring to catch Pruyn, Ramsay, and Valkenberg in the railway war at Albany, and did nothing. About four in the afternoon the Marshal went to his home on Staten Island, guarded by troops, to prevent the service of unpleasant writs. McCunn, when questioned as to what he intended to do, said he would not abandon his course, but would keep on, as the Marshal "cannot very well keep the troops about him during his whole term of office," adding that he would "have either the prisoner Pratt or Barlow." Next day the Marshal came back with his body-guard, and through the exertions of some influential gentlemen, who thought the disgraceful conflict had gone on long enough, a compromise was agreed upon, by the terms of which Pratt was to be promptly tried, a hearing for him being fixed to take place before the United States Commission. The hearing was held, the court being crowded to suffocation. The military, well supplied with ball cartridge and rations, still guarded the Marshal. Pratt was produced and evidence taken. The counsel made the usual bitter speeches, but the affair ended in a discharge. Pratt walked out of court amid hearty cheering, and McCunn, with whom the populace sympathised, gained the victory. Pratt, too, worthies to have made so much fuss about, has taken himself off to parts unknown, fearing another arrest.

A LITTLE GIRL was shot dead at the volunteer rifle ranges, Wormwood-crubs, the other day. She had gone to the targets to pick up bullets after the firing had ceased, and was killed by a random shot.

A NEW LAKE.—On Thursday, the 19th ult., the soil covering several yokes of land in the neighbourhood of Moll, a few leagues from the town of Steyer, in Upper Austria, suddenly fell in with a crash like thunder, and where the oats were waving a few seconds before there suddenly appeared a lake. The water of this newest addition to Upper Austrian scenery is clear, its temperature is very low, and it is said to have much resemblance to that of the glacier lakes. Though the river Steyer passes the place at no great distance, it does not appear that any communication exists between them; or at all events there is reason to believe that the lake receives no contribution to its waters from the river, though the contrary may be possible. The water of the stream is said to be chemically different from that contained in the newly-discovered natural reservoir. The village of Moll is situated at a considerable elevation above the level of the sea, and the spot where the lake is now to be found was, before this unexpected change, a gently undulating plain.—"North German Correspondent," Aug. 28.

SCIENCE ON THE WATER SUPPLY.

LIVE CHALK! This was one of the odd questions which cropped up in the evidence given before the Royal Commission on Water Supply. "As different as chalk from cheese" is a proverb. But chalk and cheese are not in all respects unlike. Sugar can be converted into butyric acid by being brought into contact with putrefying cheese, and the same result can be obtained by mixing sugar and chalk. It thus appears that chalk possesses the quality of ferment, like yeast. Yeast itself is a wonderful thing. German yeast, which consists of yeast globules in a dried state, dies and putrefies if bruised by a blow or by careless handling. Yeast possesses life, and this life may be destroyed. It lives, and therefore may be killed. Chalk is now believed to have life also. Mons. Béchamp has investigated the character of chalk taken from great depths, and asserts that this species of rock is full of living organisms—that is to say—organisms living at the present moment. The date of their generation must go back to a period enormously remote. The cycles of their history baffle human computation. But how can these organisms live? Are they vegetable or animal? It seems to be considered that in the chalk we have animal life. The question is one which happens just now to possess no small amount of practical importance. Modern chemical analysis has been pushed so far that it appears possible to discover not only the present condition of a drop of water, but certain significant facts connected with its past history. The source of the water supply may be a matter of great sanitary consequence. Cholera, for instance, is attributed to a specific germ in water, and this germ is so minute that the microscope cannot reveal it. Vision, with the most powerful microscope, is limited to objects of about the 80,000th part of an inch in diameter. Philosophers have taxed our powers of belief by telling us of creatures so minute that a thousand of them could swim side by side through the eye of a needle. Professor Frankland told the Royal Commissioners that water contained germs so infinitesimally small as to be capable of traversing the pores of the chalk with the same facility that human beings walk through the streets of London. No filter has a mesh fine enough to catch such little fish. They are smaller than the globules of a man's blood. From the known dimensions of certain full-grown infusoria and fungi, it is inferred that there must be an incalculable amount of germs no larger than the 240,000th part of an inch in diameter, or three times smaller than anything the most powerful microscope can discern.

Man seems baffled by the very minuteness of these creatures. They are hard to catch, and as hard to kill. Though boiled, they still live, unless the boiling be prolonged. Both in life and in death they are a puzzle to us. Microscopic life is the occasion of enormous efforts on the part of man. It drives him to the adoption of costly sanitary precautions. To escape the attacks of a creature so small that the microscope cannot perceive it, nor the finest filtration arrest it, London spends its millions in the construction of sewers, and has been discussing the propriety of spending millions more in order to fetch an untainted supply of water from Westmorland and from Wales. Comets are now have frightened kings. Yet comets are now known to be composed of materials incomparably lighter than air, and more attenuated than the faintest vapour of a summer sky. So the direst plagues that have scourged mankind, together with all the horrors of the charnel-house, originate in the activity of creatures compared with which an ordinary fly is more than an elephant. It is no great wonder if facts of this kind fail to receive their proper credence. They are only half believed, and, therefore, we only do half our work. It is clear that the Royal Commissioners on Water Supply have only partially credited the evidence of Professor Frankland, Dr. Farr, and others. The water analyst to the Registrar-General dwells on the practical value to be assigned to the presence of nitrates, and nitrites in the fluid, which the public are expected to drink. Where these salts exist—after making a proper deduction for the effects of rain—it is calculated that a proportionate amount of sewage must previously have mingled with the water. In the evidence taken before the Royal Commission on the metropolitan water supply, we find the subject fully expounded, and there we find likewise how certain objections were urged. "You must have been mistaken," said Sir John Thwaites to Professor Frankland, "in finding traces of sewage in these chalk mills (i. e. of the Kent Company), the water being taken at a depth of 250 ft. in the chalk, and the upper part of the wells themselves being lined, therefore the water must have filtered through the chalk, and there could be no trace of the skeleton of sewage." But a man of science knows better than to belie the teachings of science. Professor Frankland found traces of "previous sewage contamination" in the water supplied by the Kent Company, and he was prepared to abide by the fact, whatever might be the explanation. It was a strange thing that when judged by this test the chalk water was the worst of all—that is to say, it showed a larger amount of previous sewage contamination than the water of any other London Company. Very oddly, the water pumped up by the South Essex Company at Grays was worse still, the indicated contamination being three times as great as that of the Thames and Lea Companies. But the figures require to be handled with judgment. Professor Frankland intimates that a larger amount of previous sewage contamination may be allowed to a deep chalk well than to a supply drawn from an open river. He puts the case thus:—"I would much rather drink the chalk water of the Kent Company, even if it had been contaminated to four times the extent of the Thames water, than I would drink the Thames water, because, if I could have the assurance that none of that sewage or manure water had found its way into the wells through fissures in the chalk, the chalk water having passed through say 100 ft. of chalk, would be very much better filtered than any water which finds its way to the Thames." A striking statement is made by the same witness in reference to the source of danger in the case of sewage. He says—"I believe that the noxious part in sewage is that which is held in mechanical suspension, not that held in solution." It might be thought that filtration would remove this source of danger; yet it does not. Water rendered milky by the introduction of cholera dejections, continues milky still, after the application of the best known methods of filtration. The danger is not in the nitrates and nitrites, but in the possible presence of the living germs originally associated with the sewage. Where these salts are found, there is proof that the water has been in bad company.

But how come such salts to be present in such comparatively large quantities in the deep well-waters of the chalk? In the first place, there may be faults and fissures in the chalk, allowing uncleanly fluids to enter. Professor Abel, at Woolwich, finds an essential difference in the chemical character of the water pumped from the chalk at different states of the tide in the Thames, apparently showing that there is a communication in some way or other through the chalk into the wells which are in proximity to the Thames. The mystery of the sulphuretted hydrogen pumped up by Mr. Bazalgette from a depth of more than 900 ft., at Crossness, is not yet explained. Finally, there is the extraordinary fact that some kind of life appears still to exist in the chalk. On this point Professor Frankland says:—"If the chalk contains a vast number of living organisms, it is conceivable that those organisms in their decay may give rise to quantities of nitrates and nitrites and of ammonia, and it may be that some of those matters found in the chalk water are derived from this source." An important addendum follows:—"But I would not on that account think that a water was preferable because it had only been in contact with putrefying animalcule rather than in contact with putrefying sewage." It is a singular circumstance that the hard water of the chalk is not so acceptable to horses as rain-water. Dr. Farr mentions a case of this kind in reference to John Day's training establishment. Altogether it would appear that Professor Frankland has made out a strong case, and that the value of his analytical researches in reference to the water supply is by no means destroyed, notwithstanding the somewhat adverse report of the Royal Commission.—*Standard.*

Foreign Intelligence.

FRANCE.

The Emperor presided over a Council of Ministers on Wednesday morning, and signed several decrees. The *Public*, which is supposed to possess peculiar sources of information, states that the amelioration in his Majesty's health is very decided—in fact, that he is convalescent.

The debate on the *Senatus Consultum* in the Senate commenced on Wednesday. Prince Napoleon was among the speakers, and was replied to by M. Forcade de la Roquette on the part of the Government.

M. Magne, Minister of Finance, is reported to be engaged in preparing a scheme of financial reforms that will leave a surplus of sixty million francs at the disposal of the Government at the end of the current year, by means of which they will be enabled to increase the small salaries of public employees, and reduce the land tax and the octroi duties on wines entering Paris.

SPAIN.

A Madrid telegram states that the last remnants of the Carlist bands have now disappeared; and the *Paris Patrie* says that Don Carlos embarked for England on Monday evening at a port in the Province of Guipuzcoa.

Seven Bishops are to be prosecuted for refusing to admonish their clergy against taking part in the Carlist rising.

The *Epoque* of Madrid says the most probable candidate for the throne is Prince Augustus of Portugal, brother of the present King, who would marry a daughter of the Duke of Montpensier.

General Pezuela has left Spain, contrary to the orders of the Government.

GERMANY.

It is announced that the diplomatic quarrel between Austria and Prussia, which has been going on for some time past, is likely to be amicably settled, Count Beust having made friendly overtures, both directly and indirectly, to the Prussian Government. The most substantial proof of friendly relations is said to be the successful efforts of Count Beust for the final settlement of the Luxembourg difficulty.

A meeting of 2000 persons was held in Berlin on Sunday, demanding the suppression of convents and the expulsion of the Jesuits from the country. These demonstrations probably have some connection with the recent attack on a monastery in the neighbourhood of that city, and the excitement caused in reference to the proposed Ecumenical Council.

AUSTRIA.

The Session of the Austrian and Hungarian Delegations closed on Monday. Count Beust, in the name of the Emperor, dismissed the members with the ordinary compliments, and expressed a hope that the result of their deliberations would increase the security for peace. The Hungarian Delegation has, by voting the estimates of the Foreign Office, expressed its confidence in the policy of Count Beust.

TURKEY AND EGYPT.

Talaat Pacha, the Secretary of the Viceroy, left on Monday, in the Viceregal yacht Fanaoum, the bearer of the Grand Vizier's reply to the letter of the Khedive. The *Levant Herald* says that this reply expresses the Sultan's satisfaction with the Viceroy's explanation and assurances of unabated loyalty, but calls on his Highness to sell or transfer to the Porte the fresh ironclads and breechloaders ordered in Europe, to keep down his land forces within the prescribed limits, to abate the Egyptian taxation, to publish a regular annual statement of the finances, and to abstain from entering into any direct treaty negotiations with foreign Governments. Another account says the tone of the reply is exceedingly conciliatory, and that the Porte reciprocates the sentiments expressed by the Khedive; but, while giving full credit to the latter's assurances of loyalty, it reiterates that the Viceregal privileges as regards the maintenance of land and sea forces must be kept within the limits prescribed by the successive firmans granted by the Sultan to Ismail Pacha and his family.

THE UNITED STATES.

The New York papers announce the suicide of W. J. Nagle, a Fenian leader, who quitted the United States army in 1863 to join the brotherhood, and who, upon coming over to Ireland, was arrested and kept in prison for two years. For a week previous to his death he had, it is said, given symptoms of insanity.

CUBA.

Conflicting reports are circulated in New York regarding the proposed purchase of Cuba from Spain by the Cubans through the aid of the United States. It is, however, officially stated that no act on has yet been taken by Spain in the matter. Cuban advices report desultory fighting, but no decisive results.

General de Rodas had expressed to the editors of the *Havannah Journal* his dissatisfaction at their manner of treating the situation of affairs in the island, when, instead of advocating union and pacification, they strove to excite the passions of the people and raise obstacles to the policy of the Government. Two press correspondents who had been incarcerated made an unsuccessful appeal to the British Vice-Consul at Santiago, who replied that if they would mix themselves in the politics of a Spanish colony they forfeited all protection from him. Preparations were being made in the insurgent camp for one grand concentrated attack on Santiago in August, when all Cuba would be engaged in one final struggle for mastery.

HAYTI.

The New York papers contain despatches from Hayti to the 9th ult., stating that Jacmel had been taken by Salnave's troops without resistance. The intelligence by the West India mail-steamer *Shannon*, which left Jacmel on the 10th, contains no notice of this event.

CHINA.

It was announced in a recent telegram from Hong-Kong that the Chinese Government had refused to ratify the treaty which its Ambassador, Mr. Burlingame, had negotiated with the United States Government. The Paris papers contradict this news. Mr. Burlingame, they say, has received a despatch from the Chinese Government cordially recognising the treaties he has concluded with the United States and the European Powers.

From Hong-Kong we have news of the massacre in China of twenty persons, one of whom is said to be a French priest. An inquiry is to be instituted by the Chinese Government.

CAPE OF GOOD HOPE.

A letter from the Cape of Good Hope states that another large diamond has been found in the territory of the Transvaal Republic, and that great excitement has been caused by successive discoveries of the same nature. A company, which has purchased the right to all diamonds found after a certain date, from the Government, is proceeding to enforce its claims on individuals, and it is said that some curious lawsuits will be the result.

THE COST OF PURIFYING OUR RIVERS.—An important experiment is now being made at Bradford with the view of purifying the polluted streams of the neighbourhood. Works have been erected by Mr. Holden for deodorising and utilising the sewage; and it is stated that under the operation of a combined chemical and mechanical process, of French invention, and at present under the superintendence of two French gentlemen practically concerned in the invention, the sewage water is completely deprived of its impure and solid matter, which is retained for some time, while the apparently pure water from which it has been removed is sent forward on its natural course. The outlay in plant for the purification of 2,500,000 gallons of sewage per day, including the price of the 10,000 square yards of land required, the cost of tanks, necessary buildings, engines, tools, and everything necessary to carry on the process, would, it is calculated, be about £14,000. The cost of conducting the sewage afterwards would be about 1d. per 1000 gallons per day, or, for a river sending down 2,500,000 gallons of sewage, £10 8s. 4d. a day. Those who have seen the Bradford stream will admit that, if the experiment succeeds there, it need fall nowhere else.

THE SEASON AT BOULOGNE-SUR-MER.

WHEN Mr. Yellowplush went on his first foreign tour, in the company of the Hon. Mr. Deuceace, he was very much surprised to find that Boulogne, though called "Boulogne-on-the-Sea," was "really built not on the sea but on the shore." The expectations of most visitors, though not quite so wildly astray as Mr. Yellowplush's, are scarcely more accurate. Boulogne is popularly regarded as a sort of city of refuge for destitute Englishmen, who have reason to dread sheriffs' officers, and whose names figure in proclamations of outlawry. The fact is that the English residents are the most wealthy element of the population, and are fraught with the most rigid notions of respectability. No doubt there are a few birds of passage, who have fled from the faces of those who have trusted them not wisely but too well, and who are biding their time, within sight of the cliffs of Dover, for return to England. At table-d'hôtes and in the Casino you overhear snatches of talk about thousands won and lost at Doncaster and Epsom, of devices at cards and tricks at billiards, and of moves and wrinkles of various degrees, suggesting green tables and black legs. But the staple of conversation which forces itself on the ear is of a more harmless and less exciting character. It relates to the fulness of the town, the price of rooms, the dearness of provisions, the misdeeds of landlords, the extortions attempted to be put in practice on the narrator, and his own spirited conduct in resisting and defeating the same. "Town is crowded, Sir; got in last night; was driven to four hotels before I could find anybody to take me; put me into a place they told me was a bedchamber; found it was a passage; people passing through it all night; hadn't a wink of sleep." The respondent is not to be outdone. "Slept in a sort of closet with four ladies and two gentlemen. Divided sofa and arm-chair between us." "So I told the landlord I was not going to have a dog-kennel like that. The fellow asked eight francs a night; he was confounded insolent. I let him have a bit of my mind, however." Feminine voices mingle more gently in the chorus—"She told me as soon as they were empty she would let me know." "Very dear, and not at all good." "Don't sweep the room once in a week, I think," and other mild repinings. There is no doubt that Boulogne, during the past fortnight, has been full to overflowing. People have slept in *salles-a-manger*, or have had to put up with shake-downs in the court-yard, the most desirable part of the house in this weather, since the roof of the house is built at an angle not adapted for safe or comfortable slumber. At table-d'hôtes the packing is so close that each guest is actually pinioned by his neighbour, and no one can use his arms above the wrist. Only the most consummate address enables the waiters to insert the plates, knives, forks, glasses, and other convivial instruments between the contiguous heads of the company. The result is that the administration has as completely broken down as it did in the Crimea. One English waiter was noticeable lapsing day by day into a state of increasing imbecility, until he became wholly incapable either of understanding or executing orders, though he still continued to wander about—to toy with cups and plates, and to present himself to the guests. He has at length been removed, as I am told and believe, to a *maison de santé*. The last time he appeared in public he met every demand for sustenance, from a boiled egg to a beefsteak, with the plaintive rejoinder, "The water has gone away." The other waiters have become simply desperate, and fancy that they discharge their functions by giving you, after an interval of about three quarters of an hour, something which somebody else has ordered. At the table-d'hôte you are put upon half rations. Appetite is tantalised rather than satisfied by instalments of food. It is my misfortune to sit at dinner near a man who applies every article of food that is placed before him to his nose, and after protracted and repeated sniffs, pronounces the most unfavourable sentiments respecting its original character and constitution, its age, and the method of cookery to which it has been subjected. If these remarks should meet his eye, let him reflect that what is his dinner is other people's dinner too. If he has lost his appetite, he has no business to take away mine. These remarks are written after an experience, more or less prolonged, of four of the principal hotels of the place. None of them is much worse or better than the other. All are respectable, and in ordinary times comfortable and well-managed. But the task of provisioning the enormous army of strangers which has thrown itself on Boulogne exceeds the resources of private enterprise.

On the seaside the same phenomenon is observable. The well-dressed mob which fights for bathing-tickets and bathing-dresses in the establishments whence the former are issued and where the latter are deposited is more like a struggling crowd at the pit-door of an English theatre than any other aggregate of human beings. But these struggles are as nothing to the fights for machines during the fashionable hour for bathing. Adventurous gentlemen and fashionably-dressed ladies rush into the sea after the returning vehicles, and scuffle ankle-deep in the water for a place on the steps. The victor comes splashing in triumphantly, holding on in the attitude of a newly-aliathed Mercury. He or she is understood by this exploit to have gained the reversion of the cabin when the person inside shall have dressed and come out. But the right depends on the fact of possession. Careful watch and ward must be kept. If the cabin-door is quitted for a moment, the vacant place will be carried by assault, and it will be vain to try and vindicate the original right of possession. Less bold and adventurous persons wander about for hours on the beach. You see them making feeble rushes in the distance after bathing-machines obviously impossible of attainment. These scenes take place only at and about the time of high tide. A little earlier or a little later, when, owing to the slope of the shore, the bathing is really better for swimmers, machines can be had without any difficulty.

The crowded state of Boulogne is not surprising; for the place is one of the most agreeable on that part of the European coast which is accessible to English bathers. I have "gone in" at Scheveningen, Ostend, Calais, Dieppe, Fécamp, Havre, Trouville, St. Malo, and at many of the smaller satellites of these bathing centres, from Holland to Brittany, and on the whole give my voice for Boulogne. Scheveningen is simply a bathing annexe of the Hague. It is a fishing village, built on a heap of shifting sand, with a splendid and costly hotel planted in the midst. As to the bathing, there is none worth the name. The German Ocean at Scheveningen is little better than a foot-bath. You may wade until you are tired, and not get higher than your knees. Ostend is better. You can penetrate within swimming depth. But the town is poor; the hotels are dear. If you care for a display of the extravagances of modern luxury and parvenu wealth you have it there. It is the favourite resort of *famille Benoiton* of Belgium and all its connections. Scenery there is none. The nearest place of interest is the old city of Bruges, Calais, as a town, has been unduly disparaged. Its ramparts and public gardens form promenades of greater extent and variety than most places of its size possess. The Place d'Armes, with its gable-fronted houses; the Hôtel de Ville, with its quaint belfry and its pretty chimneys; and the names over the shop-doors (on three adjoining houses were inscribed the patronymics Taelruck, Tammecker-Pieters, and Tuock) give it an essentially Flemish character. The bathing, however, is bad, and the bathing arrangements are worse. Before you can reach a decent depth in the sea, you have to be jolted a mile in a machine which dislocates every joint and sets every nerve throbbing. Havre, Dieppe, and Fécamp labour under the disqualification of a pebbly beach. For swimmers this matters little, for the depth is good, and there is no preliminary wading out. But Havre is as little of a holiday place as Liverpool. For seaside purposes Frascati is Havre. Fécamp is simply a gigantic hotel in a dreary fishing village. Dieppe is one of the prettiest towns in one of the prettiest spots on the French coast; but the bathing is not always safe, and a flag of prohibition is too constantly hoisted. At Dieppe, as at Havre and Fécamp, the separate system is enforced. The only result is that the indecencies of both the English and French systems are combined. The costumes are scanty, for the two sexes are presumed to be apart. But as the *cabanes* are fixed on the shore, and the bathers have to walk down

in their marine attire to the water, decorum gains little by the separation, especially as ladies and gentlemen, not being allowed to bathe together, avenge themselves by walking together in their bathing-dresses. Trouville owes its reputation to caprice and the late *Duc de Morny*. The beach is heavy with sand, and the place is subject to tornadoes of dust. St. Malo has a good firm shore, on which the water is too shallow. It is a fine old Breton town, with fine old Breton smells, which may be avoided by the visitor's taking up his quarters in the adjoining English settlement of St. Servan. The scenery is picturesque with wood, and rock, and river. At St. Malo ladies and gentlemen may bathe together or apart, as they please. At Boulogne, though portions of the beach are supposed to be set apart for gentlemen alone, for ladies alone, and for families, there is no real separation. Everybody takes possession of the first bathing-machine he or she can find, wherever that may be. As the carriages convey their occupants into the water and draw them out again there is no critical inspection and review of bathers by loungers on the beach. In the water, people are too much engaged in aquatic exercises to be thinking of the costumes of their neighbours. At Boulogne there is little of the outrageous extravagance of female costume which is noticeable at Ostend, Dieppe, and Trouville. There are fewer bold and graceful swimmers. Both phenomena are probably due to the fact that the English visitors are many and the French visitors are comparatively few. The "schools of natation" on the Seine have made French-women, as well as Frenchmen, swimmers. The exercise forms a part of the ordinary physical education of both sexes. The example is one which we should do well to follow, though the idea of swimming-baths in the Thames between Chelsea and Greenwich is not very attractive.—*Correspondent of "Daily News."*

GOTTLAND.

THIS Swedish island of the Baltic has a bad character for wrecking. An unofficial visit was paid to it last summer by Mr. Gray, Assistant-Secretary to the Board of Trade, who was assured that there has for some time been an association of residents in Gotland who, in case of a ship being wrecked or in danger, would give assistance after a very profitable fashion. One member would affect to be agent for the shipowner, another for the owner of the cargo, another for the insurers, while another would represent himself as the consular agent, and another would become agent for the salvors. They could thus get the management of the case into their hands, and, living at various parts of the island, they formed a sort of network around it. In one case the sum demanded for salvage would be enormous; and an appeal to the Courts in Wisby is attended with vexatious delay. Another case, says Mr. Gray, would take this shape: "A vessel got on shore; the weather was fine; and she was taken afloat the same day by a person who is reported to be a member of the Gotland organisation, very little damaged; and lay in harbour for many days. She did not make more water in any one day than could be pumped out in ten minutes, or, at the outside, a quarter of an hour. After lying in harbour leaking steadily at this rate for some time, one day she suddenly leaked heavily. The ship was examined, and it was found that some of the oakum had been driven out of the seams. This was repaired, and the vessel did not leak much while the oakum remained in it, but it was pulled out again. The captain and mate were subsequently seen to go on board the vessel on two occasions. After one of their visits the vessel got deeper in the water, and after the other she went down altogether at her moorings. A survey was held, and the vessel was condemned in due course. She was a new ship, and was sold for about one fifth of the sum for which she was insured. She was bought by a member of the organisation, who was salvor, and the conditions of sale were strongly against anyone else buying her. Shortly after the sale was effected, the leak was stopped and she was afloat in a few hours. Her bottom was repaired by a few hands, and she took in cargo and sailed away. She was rechristened, and is still running. The agent of the underwriters, who is also reported to be a member of the organisation, had a representative present at the ship in their behalf, and the underwriters dismissed him on account of this case, and declined to pay insurance." This is said to be not so bad a case as some. Excessive insurance tempts owners to contrive collusive losses, and a still more serious evil in Gotland is collusion between the master and salvors. The underwriters have employed as a special agent in some cases Lieutenant Falk, of the Gotland Militia, and he has done much to protect their interests, though subject to organised opposition and innumerable difficulties. There has been no British Consular agent in Wisby for some time, and, owing to the urgent representations of Lloyd's and the representations also of our Consul at Stockholm, the British Foreign Office last year appointed Lieutenant Falk to that office; but the Swedish Government declined to grant him an exequatur. It is against their rules for an officer of the Swedish army to hold such an appointment, and there was a difference between Lieutenant Falk and the Governor of Gotland on some question of discipline, making it difficult or impossible for the two to work together. In another report to the Board of Trade, in March, Mr. Gray states that, among 220 coasting passenger-steamers of Sweden, there has been a loss of only three ships in ten years; while among 215 passenger coasting-steamers of Great Britain seventeen have been totally lost, under circumstances so grave as to require a formal and extensive inquiry by the Board of Trade. But then the Swedish masters are paid partly by a share of the profits; self-interest is made to run hand in hand with duty. They get well paid if they do their best. If the ship is wrecked they lose their percentage, and find it difficult to get another ship. Mr. Gray submits that the facts he has stated afford ground for consideration and further inquiry.

ENGLISHMEN IN PARAGUAY.—A despatch has been received at the Foreign Office from General M'Mahon, the United States Minister, who has recently returned from the head-quarters of President Lopez, in Paraguay. General M'Mahon was the bearer of letters as well as considerable sums of money from British subjects in Paraguay to their friends in Europe. It appears from his report that those Englishmen who remain with the Dictator in Paraguay are in good health, satisfied with their position, and treated with consideration by Lopez.

THE SPANISH CARLISTS.

WITHIN a year from the combat of Alcolea, and the easy overthrow of the Bourbon dynasty, General Prim has arrived in Paris. The first impressions suggested by this bare intelligence to anyone who knows the political history of Spain would be that events in the Peninsula had run their customary course, and that the successful conspirator of yesterday was the unsuccessful exile of today. For once, however, the regular routine of all Spanish pronunciamientos would appear not to have been followed. The Conde de Reuss comes to the French capital, en route for the baths of Vichy, not as a proscribed fugitive, but as the Chief Minister of Spain. Down to a very recent date, we were told, affairs were so disturbed in the Peninsula that there was no prospect of the General's being able to quit the capital even for a short time. It seems, however, that those fears have not been justified by the event, since Prim feels himself powerful enough to leave the scene of action for a time, and to take his holiday abroad like any other public servant. It is, of course, still possible that the tour may be an act of political bravado. So much has been said of Prim's intended visit to France that he may have considered the danger of absence to be less pernicious than the confession—which would be involved in the abandonment of his proposed tour—that he was afraid to relinquish his grasp upon the reins of power even for a few days. On the other hand, the sudden outbreak of the Carlist insurrection gave Prim an excellent excuse for not absenting himself from Spain, and we may safely conclude that he apprehended no serious risk from his absence. He may turn out to be mistaken in his estimate; but the mere fact of his having formed such an estimate, and acted upon it, proves the existing

order of things to be more firmly established in the Peninsula than foreign observers were disposed to believe. This much is clear, that the Carlist outbreak has collapsed hopelessly and almost ignominiously. The young Don Carlos—who, like many other pretenders, was about to win back the throne of his forefathers or perish in the attempt—has returned quietly to France. The insurgents have been dispersed almost without an effort; and the stories of the extreme measures employed by the Government to repress the revolt rest mainly, if not exclusively, on the statements of excited adherents to the Carlist cause. At any rate, order reigns once more in the Peninsula; and the tranquillity of the country is held to be so complete that the real chief of the Provisional Government feels safe in leaving the task of its preservation to the care of his subordinates.

In the interests of civilisation we can only rejoice at the utter collapse of the Legitimist insurrection. Don Carlos entered Spain to champion Divine Right, priestly rule, a policy of commercial isolation, and autocratic government; and it would have been an evil sign for the cause of progress if a nation which had just shaken off the rule of Queen Isabella II. as a hateful tyranny should have become so enervated and demoralised by less than a year of free institutions as to accept the reign of Don Carlos. It would have been matter for grave astonishment and regret if the Spanish people, whose rallying cry eleven months ago had been "Down with priest rule, and away with the Bourbons!" had forthwith espoused the cause of a Bourbon Prince who invaded the Peninsula under the special sanction of the Vatican. We are glad therefore to learn that, whatever the future may have in store for Spain, she will have nothing to say to the elder Bourbons; for, indifferent as the government of Serrano and Prim may be, it is a model of good and just administration compared with any that Don Carlos could have created in its stead.

One of our Illustrations represents the combat that took place some weeks ago in La Mancha between the national troops and the Carlist band under Sabariego, which was reported at the time. Sabariego was asserted to have been either captured or slain, though we have since seen statements, emanating from Carlist

sources, that the brigadier had rallied his bands and was again in the field. No other mention of him or his exploits, however, has appeared. That the Carlists are not in favour with the people in Madrid is shown by the incident depicted in our other Engraving. A party of Carlist prisoners were being conveyed, some week or two ago, through the streets of the capital, and their appearance excited strong feelings of dislike, the priests, of whom there were several among the prisoners, being especially obnoxious to the populace. The crushing, hooting, and confusion were great; and a few of the captives took advantage of the excitement to endeavour to escape. They were, however, speedily recaptured by the people, and it was with much difficulty that the officials in whose charge they were could hinder the mob from executing summary vengeance on the champions of legitimacy and disturbers of the public peace.

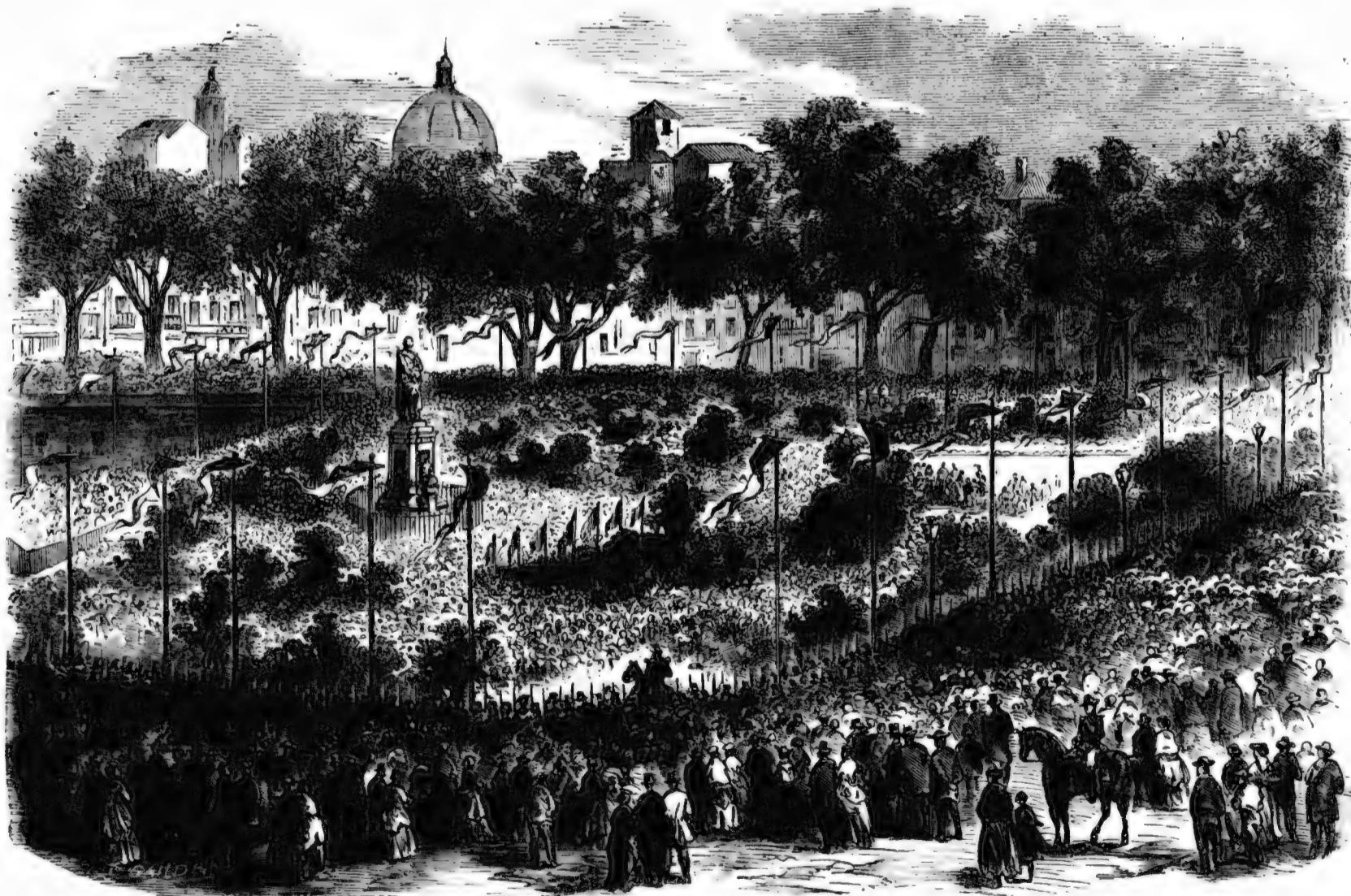
THE FRENCH MINISTER OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS.

THE family of La Tour d'Auvergne is one of those which seem to survive and to occupy a prominent position under successive Governments and in very different political circumstances. Under the Monarchy they could claim to be nephews of the great Turenne; under the Republic they were descended from the first grenadier in France; but, whatever cause they may have adopted, they have the merit of remaining faithful to it even in its misfortunes.

The present Minister of Foreign Affairs, Prince Henry de la Tour d'Auvergne, is one of the youngest diplomats in the Emperor's service, being only just thirty years of age, although a rather stout figure and matured expression give him the appearance of a man considerably older, while his closely-cut hair and beard give a decided character to a head and face not a little striking. One of his brothers, Monseigneur de Bourges, very little resembles him, since he has quite an Italian head and face, with black hair and dark, sallow complexion. The eldest brother of the family, Colonel Prince Edward de la Tour d'Auvergne, is quite different again, appearing more like a Corsican in figure, with an energetic face, iron muscles, but a small frame, full of the silent strength expressed by his



PRINCE LA TOUR D'AUVERGNE, FRENCH MINISTER FOR FOREIGN AFFAIRS.



INAUGURATION OF THE MASSENA STATUE AT NICE.

face and bearing. The only sister of the house has but lately died. She was canoness of one of those two conventional chapters still remaining in Germany, which were proud enough to refuse admission to the daughters of the house of Bourbon, because of the misalliance of the Kings of France with the Medicis. Prince Henry de la Tour d'Auvergne was educated in Paris, and his holidays were spent at Saint Paulet, near Castel Maudary. His father, Melchior de la Tour d'Auvergne, dying while he was still a child, he was brought up by his mother, a lady fully capable of maintaining the rank and station belonging to their house.

Young as he is, Prince Henry is a widower, left with one child, boy, who already gives promise of great ability. He will come into an inheritance which is beyond mere riches—that of the traditional fidelity and honesty of purpose with which the name of his family has ever been associated. So that, whatever may have been the political opinions of the race, they have at least the noblest quality of statesmen.

INAUGURATION OF THE STATUE OF MASSENA.

THE people of Nice have celebrated the centenary of Napoleon I. by completing the statue of one of the ablest Generals who contributed to the Imperial successes. Whether Massena was really a Jew, whose real name was Manasseh, as Mr. Disraeli intimates in "Coningsby," we have no immediate means of deciding, and we are doubtful whether his great military abilities were not so cancelled by his insatiable avarice that the "people" need scarcely covet the honour of an alliance with his name. Like our own Marlborough, who could smile serenely while he cheated a poor soldier of his rations, to add another shilling to that enormous horde which he was continually accumulating, Massena sometimes frustrated his own great successes by his unconquerable avarice. In 1798, when he was placed at the head of the army charged to establish the Republican Government in the Papal States, both his own soldiers and the people of the subjected territory complained so bitterly of his rapacity that he was removed from the command and remained unemployed a whole year, till he was appointed General of the Armies of the Danube and Switzerland, and defeated the Russians in the Battle of Zurich, thus saving France from invasion.

A general of division at thirty-seven years old, it took this "spoilt child of victory," as Napoleon called him, but nine years to become Marshal of France, Duke of Rivoli, and commander-in-chief of the army in Italy, where he succeeded in driving the Archduke Charles before him and effecting a junction with the Emperor. The victory at Essling added a principedom to his titles; and, though his star seemed to wane when he failed at Torres Vedras, his masterly retreat into Spain almost covered defeat. Three years afterwards he declared his adhesion to the Bourbons; and at the end of the Hundred Days he became Commander-in-Chief of the National Guard in Paris. This was the last step in his grand career, for in 1817 he died, at less than



GENERAL LEBŒUF, THE NEW FRENCH MINISTER FOR WAR.

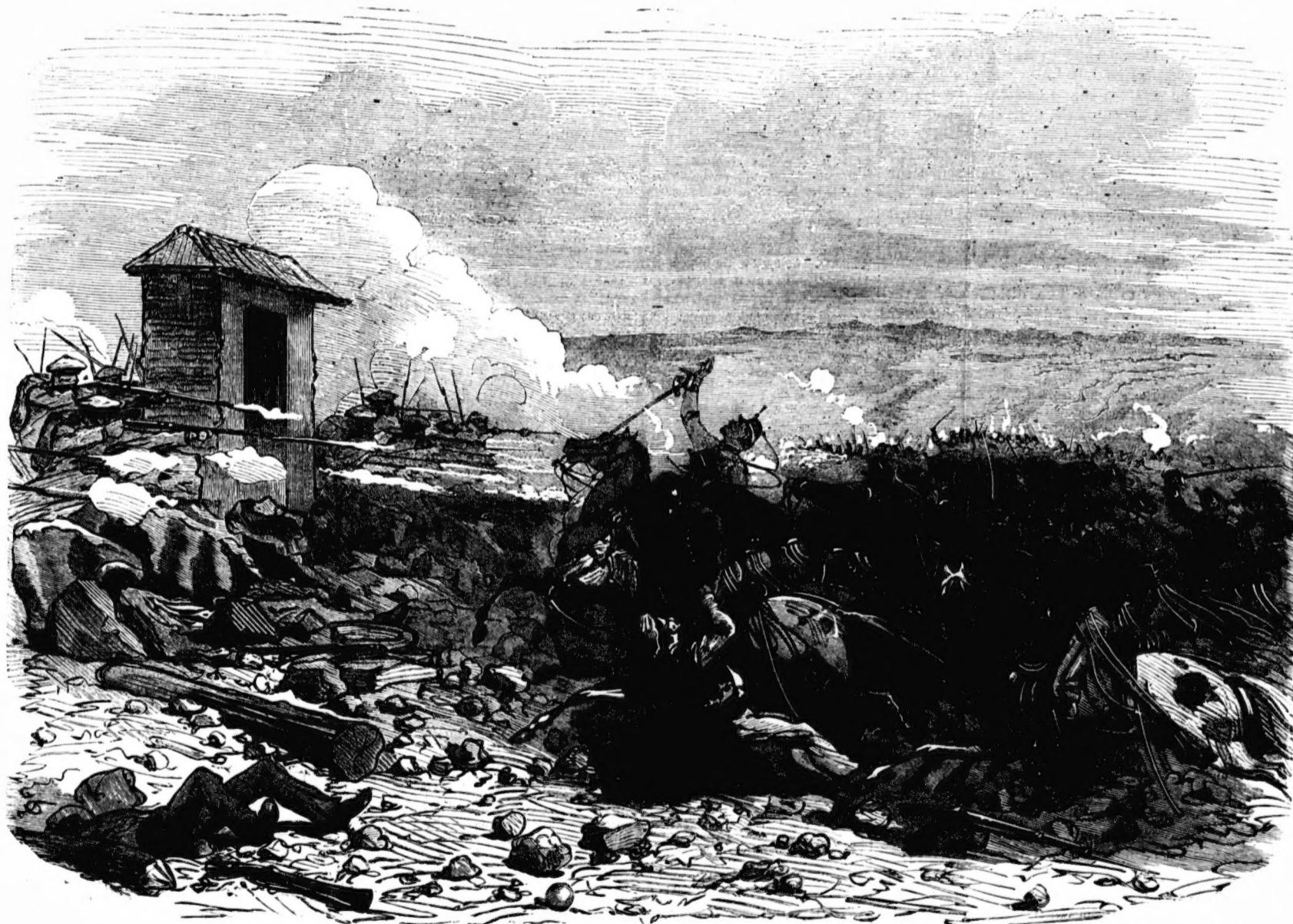
sixty years of age. It is fitting that the people of Nice should do honour to the famous General who was their fellow-townsmen; and, though more than half a century had elapsed since his death, the occasion was not only a national but an imperial one, since, in addition to the vast crowd assembled to do

honour to the event, the ship Louis XIV. had arrived from Toulon to add another element to the attractions, and General Reille was commissioned by the Emperor to preside at the inaugural ceremony, to review the troops of the garrison, and to pronounce an oration setting forth the victories achieved by Massena in the Imperial service. Speeches were also made by M. Melaussena, the Mayor of Nice, and by a member of the family of the Duke of Rivoli. In the name of the Emperor, General Reille then conferred the usual decoration on M. Durandy, the engineer who has accomplished the recent improvements in the city of Nice; and the fete terminated with a brilliant assemblage on board the Louis XIV., where a ball took place in honour of the occasion.

GENERAL LEBŒUF.

THE new Minister of War, who is physically the biggest man in the French army, was born in 1809, and entered the service through the Polytechnic School, and the Ecole d'Application of Metz, whence he emerged a full-blown Lieutenant of Artillery in 1833. His promotion was very rapid. His brilliant conduct at the engagement of the Iron Gates in Algeria attracted the attention of the Orleans Princes, who took a leading part in that engagement; and he obtained his Captaincy in 1837. Like his predecessor, Marshal Niel, he distinguished himself greatly at the siege of Constantine, and was rewarded by the cross of the Legion of Honour and a mention in the general orders of the army. In 1840 he got a further step in the Legion of Honour for the skill and sangfroid with which he protected the retreat of a French column which was in danger of being cut off by the Kabyles. Two years later he was made a Colonel. In 1854 he went to the Crimea as head of the artillery staff, with the rank of Major-General, and took a prominent part in the Battle of the Alma. He was appointed Lieutenant-General in 1857, and two years later the whole of the artillery of the Italian expedition was placed under his command. The French say that but for his timely aid in bringing up an overwhelming number of guns to bear on the Austrian right, commanded by Benedek, Victor Emmanuel's army at Solferino would have been crushed, and the position of the French army seriously compromised. Since then he has commanded the camp of Châlons, and, in 1866, it was he who was dispatched to Venice to receive the province from the Austrian Government. From 1848 to 1850 he was in command of the Polytechnic School, and at that time he was popular with his alumni on account of his Liberal views and his abhorrence of martinism. His friends state that he is an able and fluent speaker and a good administrator. The 6th Corps d'Armée has been under his orders for the last two years and a half, but that command affords no scope for administrative

ability. It is said that he considers these great military commands a mistake, and that he is in favour of doing away with them—an intention which would greatly interfere with the plans of Marshal Niel if it were carried out, and would create no small discontent in the higher ranks of the army.



RENCONTRE BETWEEN CARLISTS AND NATIONAL TROOPS IN LA MANCHA, SPAIN.

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PROTECTION OF CHILDREN.

ONE of the frequent topics of Mr. Mill in his political and social writings is the inadequacy of the protection which the law of England affords to children. Whether it is or is not in one respect as inadequate as it appears will shortly be tested; but we now only propose to call attention to a story which, at all events, illustrates the extreme difficulty of deciding satisfactorily questions of the treatment of children by parents and guardians; a case which we think the reader will be of opinion ought at least to be remembered, if not scrutinised.

We shall mention no names, but just before the ILLUSTRATED TIMES went to press last week a surgeon, whose specialty appears to be the use of the galvanic battery in the treatment of disease, was tried at the Middlesex Sessions—and acquitted—upon the charge of cruelly beating and also, says the report, "galvanising" his infant daughter, a child of a year and a few months old—one account giving a year and four months, another a year and ten months as the age of this baby. The first important witness for the prosecution was a young woman who had been five months in the service of the father of the child, and her evidence is reported in these terms:—"On July 1 the child was screaming, and I heard 'slaps' above. The screams came from the room over the kitchen. The child was beaten three times that morning. I heard a great many 'slaps' given to the child, and I went towards the stairs; but I met the child on the stairs, and it was crying. I took the child up and sat it on my lap, when it jumped up as if in great pain. I lifted up its clothes and found it was almost bleeding from the bruises it had received. The marks were red stripes, extending from the lower part of the back up to the shoulders. There were also marks on the stomach and across the loins. There were not only the beatings on July 1, but not one day was missed but the child was beaten. I examined the child's face, and found a large bruise on the right cheek, and took her to a surgeon, Mr. Barnes. One morning the child cried, and the father took it up stairs and said he would give it a smarter (meaning the galvanic battery). He applied the galvanic battery to the child, upon which it began to cry violently, and he said 'Oh! you are not satisfied—I'll give it you a little harder'; and he applied the battery with greater force. The child still continued to cry, and he again increased the power of the battery."

This evidence appears to have been disbelieved by the Judge and jury; at all events, the Judge called attention to the fact that the witness did not come into court "untainted, because she was bad friends with the defendant and his wife;" had not informed neighbours of the alleged beatings; and had simply run away and told a policeman. A lady, who said she was staying in the house and was under treatment by the father of the child, swore that the servant girl had been complained of, and we are told "she completely negatived the charge of beating and cruelty." This is penny-a-lining for one knows not what; but the witness stated, "as she was suffering under a spinal disease, she had been subjected to the galvanic operation of the defendant, which had rendered her great relief, but it left marks on her body which strongly resembled bruises." "The galvanic operation of the defendant" is also penny-a-lining, but let that pass. A working man who had been in the service of the defendant then gave evidence that he also had been under "the galvanic operation" of his master, and that it left marks resembling bruises, though "it did not cause excruciating torture"—which is very edifying. Lastly, "a neighbour, whose house overlooked the defendant's garden, said she had observed the defendant several times playing with his children, and he always treated them kindly." Finally, the Judge, if he is correctly reported, charged in favour of the defendant, and a verdict of "Not guilty" was recorded. Who would not delight to hear, in this form or in any other, the opinion of twelve sane men that a father had not been found guilty of such cruelty?

One or two points, however, remain open to comment. The learned Judge is reported to have said that "if the bruises found on the body of the child were inflicted by the hand of the defendant the injuries, to his mind, would be greater. They might beat a boy of nine or ten years of age, but not a child of such tender years; and no instrument, no

stick or strap, had been spoken of." Here, again, we have bad reporting; but we have read in "goody" books of children under three years of age being well flogged; and in the family of a religious teacher of the last century it was a rule that the rod might be applied from a year old upwards. The curious part of the narrative before us is, however, the fact that the evidence of the police-surgeon, to whom the girl took the baby, does not appear to have been dealt with at all. This gentleman, we are told, "who examined the child, entered into a detailed description of the state in which he found it. The whole surface of the body was bruised and mottled. The bruises were of different dates, and, although he had been surgeon to the police for six years, the bruises on this child were more violent than any ever brought under his notice."

Now, whatever the learned Judge may think about the beating of babies, the little ones of some of the brutalized poor are not seldom beaten, even to blood and bruising, before they are three years old—in fact, almost as soon as they can walk. And if the bruises which the divisional surgeon finds upon a particular child are as severe as this, is it not noticeable that, when the implication of the other evidence for the defence is that the infant is under galvanic treatment, no evidence is given of the existence of disease in her, or that any disease which so young a thing could have would require such heroic treatment? Of course, there may be a gap in the reports, and in any case the father is acquitted; but the story illustrates the extreme difficulty of dealing with cases between parent and child; and we did not feel justified in leaving it recorded only in the "law" columns of the papers.

THE LATE MURDERS IN ABYSSINIA.

FULL particulars regarding the slaughter of Mr. Powell and his party in Abyssinia, last March have reached England. Mr. Munzinger, our Assistant Resident at Aden, has paid a visit to the frontier of the region in which the crime was committed, and he has brought back with him all that we may ever know regarding the fate of the travellers. It appears that Mr. Powell had not got on altogether smoothly with the Kuwana people; and on his journey across country to the Takazzie he found an indisposition on the part of some villagers to furnish him with guides. Not until he threatened to write letters that would bring down upon them the vengeance of Egyptian marauders did the natives furnish guides; and the temper of the country people generally seems to have been suspicious or unfriendly. The travellers, however, prosecuted their journey, and Mr. Powell was even so devoid of apprehensions—it might seem harsh to say of prudence—that he separated his company into two bands, pushing on himself to the Takazzie, while the servants were to follow him after they had got some flour ready. The temptation offered by the rich and comparatively unprotected caravan was too much for the cupidity of the natives, whose jealousy and vindictiveness had already been roused. They lay in wait for the second band of travellers, killed most of the servants, and plundered the animals. Then, to secure themselves against consequences, they sent in haste across country a messenger to incite the Tika people, among whom Mr. Powell had arrived, to complete the massacre; and next morning the fell counsel was obeyed. These particulars have been, at least substantially, already given to the public; but Mr. Munzinger's despatch has two fresh points of interest. Attempts to recover the remains of the travellers have failed. A party of Kolioko men sent out to search for them shrank from penetrating so far into a hostile country; but three of the explorers ventured stealthily to approach the fatal spot. They found the bodies of the victims all but devoured by hyenas and other wild beasts; and, fearful for their own lives, they could not stay to bury the remains. The missionaries whom Mr. Munzinger saw reported that there was no hope left of recovering the bodies; so that the friends of the travellers have been cruelly denied the power of paying them the last sad rites. The Abyssinian Governor, under whose control the guilty villagers are, has taken upon himself the task of punishment; and "the villages would probably be burned and destroyed." If Ato Zalala can be trusted to carry out this resolution—and Mr. Munzinger seems to have no doubt of him—all that can be done in the sad business will have been done; for stern chastisement at the hands of one in permanent authority will do much more to secure the safety of adventurous Europeans in future than any avenging incursion by foreign force, which would only provoke vindictiveness and retaliation.

CARDINAL CULLEN has published a letter on the model-school system of the Irish National Board. He describes it as replete with danger, and well calculated to undermine the foundations of the Catholic faith. The document contains no other political allusion.

SUBURBAN GARDENING.—One of the pleasantest reminders of the season has just appeared in the shape of an announcement that the first exhibition of the Royal and Horticultural Society of the Alexandra District of Beckenham will be held on Saturday, the 11th. This society, which is composed entirely of employes in London who inhabit a number of cottages in the neighbourhood of Beckenham, and devote their leisure to the cultivation of their garden-plots, is remarkably suggestive of what may be accomplished by neighbourly communion for a common object; and, though the subscription for membership is but a shilling, and the prizes do not amount to above £10, the interest displayed is quite refreshing. The secretary, Mr. H. D. Galer, of Alexandra Cottages, has already completed the arrangements. The exhibition is to be held in the grounds of Mr. D. Drakeford, of Elm-grove, Lower Sydenham; and the show is to include window plants, ferns, cut roses, nosegays, garden and wild flowers, fruit and vegetables, including pot-herbs, kale, and cucumbers.

HARVARD UNIVERSITY.—Harvard was founded, early in the seventeenth century, at Newtown, one of the earliest pilgrim colonies, the name of which, after the establishment of the college, was changed to Cambridge. Among the settlers at Newtown were a number of graduates of old Cambridge, England, mostly alumni of that Emmanuel College which had been founded by Sir Walter Mildmay in 1555, and which the maiden Queen suspected, with her shrewd wit, to be a "Puritan foundation." These Emmanuel settlers in the New World set up a branch of their alma mater, which was at first Puritan indeed. The young college of New Cambridge received a grant of £400 from the General Court of Massachusetts, which was then considered an excellent beginning. In 1638 the Rev. John Harvard, a wealthy Puritan Minister who had come over from England, bequeathed his valuable library and half his property to the infant institution. The gratitude of colleges usually takes the form of adopting the benefactor's name for some purpose connected with them, so Cambridge College became Harvard College. Harvard's example set the fashion: endowments multiplied, the magistrates of the colony gave £200 worth of books, and poor and rich contributed to help along an institution of which Massachusetts Bay was already proud. Still it was a hard struggle to keep the college a-going in those troublous times of Indian raids, and a yet unconquered soil. But Harvard began nevertheless, to produce men of stam and learning, and was already supplying the backbone of that energetic and heroic settlement. So it lived on for a century, always struggling with poverty, and often interrupted by the disturbances incident to new settlements. In the War of Independence (1775-1783) Harvard took an active part in the patriot cause, both by its distinguished graduates—for James Otis, Hancock, Warren, Josiah Quincy, and the elder Adams were alumni of Harvard—and by the professors and students then engaged in the curriculum. After the battle of Lexington the patriot army occupied the college buildings; and the students and their instructors took no slight part in the military operations which followed. Stories are told of professors in Gr. and "the humanities," spectacled and wrinkled, boldly leading bands of their scholars in the skirmishes which took place in the vicinity.—*Leisure Hour.*

SAYINGS AND DOINGS.

THE QUEEN AND ROYAL FAMILY AT BALMORAL are enjoying the fine open season, and daily take walks, drives, and excursions amidst the charming scenery with which their Highland home is surrounded. The Prince of Wales is staying with his Royal mother. The Princess and her children are still at Woburn.

PRINCE ARTHUR has been received at Prince Edward Island with every demonstration of loyalty.

THE EMPRESS EUGENIE and the Prince Imperial reached Corsica last Saturday morning, and were enthusiastically received. The Empress returned to Paris on Thursday.

MISS CUSHMAN, the tragedienne, is lying dangerously ill in Edinburgh. Sir James Simpson and Professor Spence are in constant attendance.

THE POST OF PHYSICIAN EXTRAORDINARY TO THE QUEEN in Scotland has become vacant by the death of Dr. James Begbie, for a long time a successful practitioner at Edinburgh.

A DINNER TO THE OXFORD AND HARVARD CREWS was given on Monday evening, at the Crystal Palace, by the London Rowing Club. Mr. Charles Dickens was the principal speaker.

THE NORWICH MUSICAL FESTIVAL has been held this week. Some novelties have been produced; the attendance has been good; and the festival, so far, is pretty successful.

SEVERAL CASES OF SUNSTROKE are reported as having occurred in Leicestershire and other parts of the country, some of which have terminated fatally.

A STRIKE OF SOME 3000 SHIP LABOURERS is reported to have taken place in Quebec, and the military have been called in to preserve order.

MR. PEABODY has given 60,000 dols. to the trustees of Washington College, Virginia, for the purpose of establishing an additional professorship, as recently proposed by General Lee, the president of the college.

DR. LANIGAN, a dispensary physician at Kilmeaden, six miles from Waterford, shot his wife on Friday evening, in the dining-room, and then blew his own brains out.

THE RECORDEDSHIP OF RICHMOND, lately vacated by Mr. Vernon Lushington, has been conferred upon Mr. William Morton Lawson, of Lincoln's Inn, barrister-at-law.

THE FLAX-SPINNERS OF BELFAST have resolved to put their mills on two-thirds time for ten weeks, in consequence of the stagnation in trade. The resolution has only reference to spinning mills, and does not apply to weaving factories.

THE SUPERIORESS OF THE CARMELITE CONVENT AT CRACOW and her assistant, arrested with reference to the case of Barbara Ubryck, have been set at liberty by a judicial order.

AN EXCURSION-TRAIN from Oldham to Scarborough was run into at Shaw station, near Oldham, on Tuesday, by another excursion-train proceeding to Fleetwood. Many of the passengers were severely injured, one man having both legs broken, and a woman sustaining three several fractures of the legs.

AN AMERICAN SEAMAN OF ENGLISH ORIGIN having been "unjustly" condemned to death by the Spanish authorities in Cuba, the English and American Consuls stood in front of him, wrapped in their flags, and declared that if he was to be shot it must be through them. The man was then taken back to prison, and afterwards sent out of the island.

CAPTAIN CRAIG, late Governor of Pentonville convict prison, was, on Tuesday, brought up to Bow-street, charged with having embezzled £200 whilst he was in the service of the Government. Although the alleged offence was committed in October, 1864, the defendant was not arrested until Sunday evening last, when he was taken in to Liverpool. He was remanded.

AN ACTION FOR FALSE IMPRISONMENT has been brought against General Dix, late Minister of the United States at the French Court, by Mr. John Mitchel, "the Irish patriot," who was confined in Fortress Monroe, in the summer of 1865, by the General's orders. Mr. Mitchel lays his damages at 25,000 dols.

AN ALARMING ACCIDENT occurred at Manchester, last Saturday, during the opening of a foot bridge across the Irwell connecting the Broughton side of the river with Peel Park and Salford. A platform over the river upon which the Mayor and a number of ladies and gentlemen had gathered gave way while the Mayor was speaking, and about sixty persons, the Mayor included, tumbled, many of them into the water. The water was shallow, and all were able to scramble out again, but several were severely bruised. The ceremony was afterwards proceeded with.

JAMES GRIGG, a Roman Catholic, died last Saturday, near Newbliss, in the county of Monaghan, under very suspicious circumstances. It is believed that he received a savage and brutal beating. The Coroner, who went to hold an inquest, was stoned and obliged to leave without holding it. The police were also abused. The Attorney-General's attention is to be called to the matter.

MR. VARLEY, the electrician, is at Brest, for the purpose of remedying the fault in the French cable. It is at a point about 1000 miles from the French coast, and Mr. Varley, without raising the cable, "hopes to be able, by some very clever manipulation of electricity, to produce at the precise spot of the fault an effect similar to electrotyping on the surface of the conducting wire, and by this means to prevent the escape to earth of any portion of the electric current."

A VACANCY on the royal foundation of the Military Knights of Windsor has occurred by the death of Colonel A. E. Angelo, K.H., late 30th Foot. The deceased officer took part in the expedition to Egypt in 1807; was in Calabria in 1808; at Walcheren in 1809; and with the army in Catalonia in 1812 and 1813. He was attached to the Austrian army as aide-de-camp to General Count Nugent in his campaign in Italy, and was present at the siege and capture of Trieste, Cattaro, and Ragusa, and in various services in the Adriatic.

MR. GEORGE HUDSON, the ex-railway king, has addressed a letter to Mr. Hugh Taylor, warmly thanking the contributors to the fund which has been raised in his behalf. In so doing, he states that he is fully compensated for what he has suffered, in the knowledge that he was enabled to assist in giving Newcastle its high-level bridge, and Sunderland its docks, and in extending the railway system to Scotland.

SERIOUS DISTURBANCES took place a few days ago near Merthyr, between mobs of Welsh and Irish colliers, and two persons have since died from the injuries thus received. Five men were charged, on Monday, with the wilful murder of one of the deceased; but it would seem that their friends entertain no idea that they will be severely punished, and are quite insensible to any feeling of regret at the loss of life which has occurred. An ample fund, it is said, has been raised for the defence of the prisoners.

A FARMER NAMED HUNTER, a Scotchman, living five or six miles from Newry, in the county of Mayo, was shot dead near his house, at ten o'clock last Saturday night. He was driving home on a car, with his wife, son, and servant, and, finding some obstruction on the road, pulled up. Immediately an assassin came out and, lodging two pistol-balls in his body, killed him instantly. The others of the party were uninjured. The motive of the crime is believed to be that the deceased was levying a decree on a neighbouring tenant for costs in an action respecting the right to cut turf which had been decided in Hunter's favour. Two men have been arrested on suspicion.

HECTOR BROOKS, potman at the Old Sergeant public-house, Garrett-lane, Wandsworth, was charged at the Wandsworth Police Court, on Monday, with wilful murder. It appeared from the evidence that a quarrel occurred in the tap-room between the prisoner and a man named Driver, and a struggle took place, during which a glass was broken. The prisoner took up the broken glass and struck Driver with it on the throat, cutting through the deep carotid artery and jugular vein. The wounded man was taken to a neighbouring surgeon, but died in a few minutes after he reached the house. The prisoner was remanded. Brooks died in his cell in Horseshoe-lane gaol on Wednesday morning.

THE CLERGY OF THE RURAL DEANERY OF DONCASTER on Tuesday presented Dr. Vaughan, who for nine years has been the Rural Dean with an address expressive of their esteem for him and regret at his approaching removal. The address was presented at a luncheon at the Mansion House—the Rev. H. F. Brock, Vicar of Christ Church, Doncaster, presiding.

THREE ELECTION COMMISSIONS ARE NOW SITTING—namely, at Bury, Bridgewater, and Norwich; and, by a new Act, the Treasury is to advance money for the expenses, and to make the places where the inquiries are held pay the same within one year. A rate is authorised to be levied on the inhabitants to pay the money advanced by the Treasury.

GENERAL GEORGE CONRAN, of the Royal (late Madras) Artillery, died on the 28th ult., aged seventy-six. He entered the East India Company's service in 1810. He served with Sir John Doveton's force from 1814 to 1817, and in the Mahratta campaigns of 1817 and 1818 in the 1st and 3rd Division of the army of the Deccan, and was present at the siege of Asseerghur in 1819.

THE SUEZ CANAL.—Another step has been taken towards the completion of the Suez Canal. The dykes have been cut, and the water from the Red Sea has been allowed to flow into the dry trenches which extend to Chaloup. On the northern side of the canal the waters have for some time been connected with the Bitter Lakes; and when the section dividing these lakes shall have been thrown open the link between the two seas will be complete. It is said that the rise in the waters of the canal has not been so rapid as was expected. But we have so constantly been told that the anticipations of the constructors had turned out to be ill-founded, and we have learned so constantly that their calculations were, after all, based upon facts, that we do not attach much weight to such a difficulty. Nov. 17 is still the day fixed for the opening of the canal to public traffic; and M. de Lesseps, we believe, is confident that the date will be adhered to faithfully.

POLICE.

CHEATING A BILL-DISOUNTER.—At Marlborough-street, on Monday, Mr. Thomas Gambell, 2, Middleton-terrace, Wood-green, in the position of a gentleman, was charged before Mr. Knox with forging and uttering several bills of exchange. Mr. Lewis, sen., prosecuted, and Mr. Harris defended. Mr. Michael Benjamin, of 1, Air-street, Piccadilly, bill-discounter, said on July 23 the prisoner called on him and stated that he wanted an advance of £50 or £60. He told the prisoner before making an advance he must have another name as security. The prisoner then gave the name of Captain Greer, 89th Regiment, stating that he was his father-in-law. Witness filled up a bill-stamp for £60. The prisoner inclosed it in an envelope and placed it in a letter, which he directed to Captain Greer, No. 2, Richmond street, Longford. On July 30 the prisoner called on him, and as the bill had been returned, but without the prisoner's name as drawer and indorser, he advanced £47, and gave £3 as commission to the person who introduced the prisoner. On Aug. 2 the prisoner called again, and a second bill for £30 was drawn in the same way. On Aug. 9 the bill came back, and when the prisoner called he advanced him £24 on the faith that the bill was genuine. Mr. Campbell, 4, Beaufort-terrace, Peckham-rye, had known the prisoner a long time, and had frequently seen him write. The acceptances to the two bills were in the prisoner's handwriting. Witness was of no profession, but had had a little property in Dublin, on which there was a small mortgage. He had latterly been in reduced circumstances, and had stayed for some time with the prisoner, until he could provide himself with a lodgings. The prisoner had not been in the habit of supplying him with money, but had paid a monthly instalment of £3 5s. 8d. for him to the General Building Society. Mr. Lewis read the information of Captain Greer, sworn before the authorities at Athlone, in which it was stated that Captain Greer knew nothing of the two bills of exchange produced by Mr. Benjamin. Miss Greer said the prisoner's wife was her sister, and she would not swear that her brother never gave authority to persons to accept bills for the prisoner. John Hardwick, waiter at Dick's, said two or three letters had been addressed there daily for the prisoner, who was not staying at the house, but called for his letters, as also did his wife. Some of the letters bore the post-mark of Longford. Police-Sergeant Micklejohn said he apprehended the prisoner in the Burlington Arcade, and on searching him at the station found in his possession two more bills ready for issuing. He went for Mr. Benjamin, and on his return the constable on duty gave him the pieces of a letter he had picked up. On putting the pieces together, he found it was a letter to the prisoner from Longford. Mr. Knox remanded the prisoner, and refused bail. There was a second charge for uttering bills to a large amount, but it was not gone into.

CAUGHT IN A TRAP.—Count E. Lousada, of the Alexander Hotel, Clapham-common, was charged at Marlborough-street, on Monday morning, with assaulting Mrs. Caroline Hulme and Mrs. Maria Collins, at No. 6, Arlington-street. The Count, it appeared, had lodged with Mrs. Collins, and, according to her statement, owed her money. He went to the house to get a letter, and Mrs. Collins and her friend Mrs. Hulme tried to detain him, until a sheriff's officer could be procured to take him into custody. It was in endeavouring to make his escape that the Count committed the assault with which he was charged. Mr. Knox said that Mrs. Collins might have a just claim against the prisoner, but she had no earthly right to detain him. He had no doubt the prisoner meant to escape, but not to harm anyone. It was an illegal act to detain him, and he (Mr. Knox) would not weigh too nicely the acts of a man endeavouring to escape from illegal custody. The prisoner would be discharged. Mrs. Collins said the Count would not escape her this time, as she had placed a sheriff's officer at every outlet of the court.

CURIOS SWINDLE.—At Guildhall, on Monday, a case of fraud was investigated, which revealed a curious mode of swindling. A man named Edgington, who had an agency for the disposal of sham businesses, sold a cigar business to a widow named Day for £70, representing its profits to be £4 a week, and giving her a guarantee, signed by a Mrs. Maria Cox, who was put forward as the proprietress of the agency office, to refund the premium at the end of a month if it were not found as stated. The takings turned out to be next to nothing (from 1 $\frac{1}{2}$ d to 2s 6d per day). On attempting to recover the £70 Mrs. Cox, as a married woman, pleaded coverture, and although she was separated from her husband and held an order of protection against him, was thus enabled to defeat the action. Nine previous examinations had taken place; but Alderman Dakin sent both Mrs. Cox and her friend Edgington for trial on a charge of conspiracy to defraud.

ALLEGED CRUELTY TO CHILDREN.—At the Lambeth Police Court, on Wednesday, William Francis Till, aged forty, *cab* proprietor, of Park-street, Kennington, and Elizabeth, his wife, aged thirty, appeared upon a warrant, before Mr. Elliott, wherein they were charged with ill-treating their son. Mr. Woodhams appeared for the defence. The lad, Henry Till, said that he had been locked in a room for three weeks, having only his shirt to wear, during which period the only food supplied to him was bread twice a day and a little milk-and-water. He was supplied with a little meat on Sundays. He had previously been in Lambeth workhouse in consequence of similar treatment. Mrs Anne Hird, who lived nearly opposite to defendants, said it was quite distressing to see this boy and the other children so ill-treated and neglected. She had frequently given them bread. They all said they were kept short of food. By Mr. Woodhams: They did not look unhealthy. Witness had never complained of the omnibuses or *cabs* standing in the street. Never heard that the boy was troublesome. There were in all five children—this boy and four little girls. While defendants were away (at Goodwood, as understood) some one came to feed them. Elizabeth Tarling, 8, Duke-street, Waterloo-road, daughter of the male defendant, said the female defendant was her mother-in-law, and the boy Henry her brother. On Sunday evening she went to her father's house, and had to enter through a

neighbour's back yard, and found her brother in the room without clothes. He said he had been there ever since he left the workhouse, and had been kept on bread and water ever since. He had a little milk only. Cross-examined: Had bread and dripping. Was living with her father when she was married. The boy Henry was very well when witness left home. He had only his nightshirt on when his father came home. Never heard anything about the boy having put a cat into the van. Mr. Henry St. John Bullen, visiting surgeon to Lambeth workhouse, said he had examined the boy, and had gone to the defendant's house and examined the other children also. He did not find the boy's health permanently injured. There was no organic disease, but he appeared somewhat emaciated. There were no external marks of violence, but the boy appeared under-fed. Certainly he was not the size he should be for his age. The other children seemed in fair condition, though barely clothed and perhaps barely fed. By Mr. Woodhams: The room the boy was in appeared clean, the accommodation fair, and he (witness) saw nothing to indicate a system of ill-treatment. The boy's organic system was healthy, and no doubt if well fed would present a better appearance. Charlotte Kent, of 6, Cardigan-street, said her garden was at the bottom of Mr. Till's, and she had seen the children, particularly the boy Henry, beaten in the stables by both defendants. Had gone to stop them, but was insulted. Cross-examined: Could see the boy at the window of the room, but did not speak to him. The boy could have called to witness had he been so disposed. Mr. Elliott observed that it was a scandalous thing that the child, after having been brought from the workhouse, should have been locked up again and treated as described. Mr. Woodhams said he would produce evidence to show that the boy was incorrigible. The family was large, and the food provided for them, although probably not the most invigorating, was perhaps the most invigorating, was perhaps as good as could be provided by Mr. Till with the means at his command. Witnesses, including a female who had acted as servant, also two boys named George and William, sons of the defendant, were called, who deposed to the general kindness of the defendants to the children generally, and declaring they were not kept short of food. Mr. Elliott, the magistrate, said he was of opinion that the latter witnesses were brought there to tell lies, and expressed a hope that the parochial guardians would be consulted as to the proper course to be taken, for which purpose he would adjourn the case for a week, accepting, at the same time, the bail as before—viz., two sureties of £20 each.

Charles Hutchings, an elderly man, was charged at Marylebone, on Wednesday, with the following assault. A lad named Samuel Fisher (whose ears were clotted with blood) said that on the previous evening the prisoner seized him by both ears and held him up by them. He (prisoner) said he had thrown sand into a pail of water. On Saturday night he (complainant) did accidentally drop some sand into a pail of water. He hurt him very much, and he was still in great pain. The father of the boy deposed to witnessing the assault from a window. He went down and gave defendant into custody. He might add that the prisoner, in addition to pulling his son's ears, put his knees into his chest, and at the same time kept pulling. John Bright, 75 D, who took the prisoner into custody, deposed to the violent assault upon the boy. Mr. Mansfield stated that the prisoner had behaved in a very brutal manner, and ordered him to pay a fine of £5, or to be imprisoned and kept to hard labour for two months.

A STRANGE LOVERS' QUARREL.—At the Highgate Police Court, on Monday, Miss Louisa Cox, a young lady, residing with her parents at Stafford House, East End, Finchley, appeared to answer two summonses which had been taken out by Dr. Burson. The first charged her with unlawfully breaking and injuring a box, the property of Dr. Reuben Burson; the second with unlawfully

taking certain papers and writings, also his property. The plaintiff, Dr. Burson, was a doctor of laws and philosophy, and scholar of Oxford. Having some time since been introduced to Miss Cox, he became attached to her. He afterwards went to Oxford to take holy orders, but Mrs. Cox and her daughter wrote to him to come back, and not to take the final step. He refused, and was surprised one day to find them both at his lodgings at Oxford. He returned to their residence, and by the request of Miss Cox put his letters in his box. He did so, and on Friday, July 30, he found that the lock of the box had been wrenched open, and on inquiry the servant said she had lent her young mistress a screw-driver about half-past one in the morning, and she (the servant) supposed it was her young mistress that had done it. Thirty-five letters that he had received from Miss Cox, besides a diploma and several credentials which were very valuable, had been taken away. He stated that he had some conversation with Mrs. Cox about the matter, asking her why she allowed her daughter to open his box, when she said she could not help it, and that it was what every English girl would do. He also spoke to Mr. Cox on the matter. The witnesses contradicted to a great extent what Dr. Burson stated, and the Court said that, considering how the plaintiff's statement had been contradicted, they had no alternative but to dismiss the case with costs. An application was then made to the magistrates to protect Miss Cox from Dr. Burson, as she was afraid he might do her some injury. The magistrates said they would grant a summons if Miss Cox would swear that she was afraid Dr. Burson would do her some bodily

HURRAH FOR PRISON AND A NEW COAT!—At the Middlesex Sessions, on Monday morning, George Taylor, described as "a moulder, of wind appearance, and with scarcely a rag to cover him," was indicted for stealing a watch and chain, and in two other charges. When the clerk read out the first charge, and asked the prisoner whether he was guilty or not guilty, he replied, "I might just as well say guilty as not. Put it down guilty." The Clerk: "You are further charged with stealing a pair of boots, the property of John Balder-

son." Prisoner: "Put that down guilty." The Clerk: "You are also charged with assaulting Philip Rum-ey." Prisoner (with the utmost indifference): "Put them all down guilty. You are sure to have some *own* way." Mr. Sergeant Cox

asked if the prisoner was known. A warden said he had been previously convicted, but that it was some time ago. He behaved very strangely while in the prison. Mr. Serjeant Cox: "Prisoner, the sentence upon you is that you be imprisoned and kept to hard labour for twelve calendar months." Prisoner: "Will that include the boots?" The Judge: "Yes, that includes the boots." The prisoner tripped lightly out of the dock and said, holding up the few rags that covered him, "Hurrah! now I shall get a new coat."

SINGULAR WILL CASE.

THE Royal Court of Jersey has just given decision in a curious will case that has been before it for a considerable time, the chief question at issue being how far the sentence of a French criminal court could be made operative in Jersey. One Jean Pierre Maigné, a Frenchman, was tried at the criminal court of Rennes, France, in the month of May, 1847, for a serious crime. The case was heard in the absence of the accused, who was sentenced, *par continuance, to travaux forcés à perpétuité*, or penal servitude for life. Maigné managed to avoid the punishment by escaping to Jersey, where, with his wife, he took up his residence, and remained there till the time of his death, in October, 1862. According to the 18th article of the French penal code, this sentence carries with it civil death; and the 25th article of the same code defines the effect of this to be that the condemned person forfeits all right and title to any property, real or personal, he may possess; and the whole devolves to his heirs and successors in precisely the same manner as if the criminal had died a natural death and left no will. He is further put beyond the power of receiving the benefit of any legacy that may be devised to him, nor can he in any way dispose of anything belonging to him.

self. If he is a married man, his marriage is dissolved so far as all civil rights and responsibilities are concerned. During their residence in Jersey, Maigné and his wife acquired some money, which was invested partly in the savings bank and partly in the commercial bank, in the name of the wife, the husband, however, drawing on the same during the life of the wife, who died in May, 1860, and subsequently, up to the time of his own death, in October, 1862. At that time there was in the savings bank the sum of £201 9s. 3d., and in the commercial bank, £108 6s. 8d., the whole of which Maigné left to be divided amongst the French poor residing in Jersey, and named as trustee the Rev. J. F. Volckeryck, minister of St. Thomas's Roman Catholic Chapel (French). Michel Pierre Bertel, brother of Maigné's wife, and who claimed to be her heir, caused an injunction to be issued against the banks, forbidding them to pay the amounts to the Rev. Mr. Volckeryck. He also attacked the validity of the will, both on the ground of the sentence passed in France upon Maigné and that it had been made at the instance of the rev. defendant, under the shelter of his office as priest and confessor. The plaintiff contended that the effect of the French sentence could not possibly be rendered void, and that the money invested in the banks could not in any way be regarded as the property of Maigné, but as that of the wife, and, as he had no legal power to make a will, the money could not be dealt with as his. The Attorney-General, for the defence, contended that the French sentence could not in the least degree be considered as operative in the island of Jersey. The deceased had lived there a number of years and been amenable to its laws, and had made a properly-attested will, which had been duly registered in the rolls of the Ecclesiastical Court, and could not, therefore, be impugned. The case, he maintained, should be judged agreeably to Jersey law and custom, the French law being entirely put out of the question, as being totally inapplicable to the case. The case had been under consideration of the Court for the last two months, and the judgment given was in favour of the defendant, the trustee, the Court considering that the French law, however binding in France, could not apply to Jersey; and, besides, that the wife of the testator had never acted in accordance with the sentence, but had lived with her husband in Jersey up to the time of her death. An appeal was demanded and granted. The case excited a deal of interest, the question being one of so novel a character.

INFANTICIDE AND THE POLICE.—On Wednesday afternoon Mr. Langham, Deputy Coroner for Westminster, held an inquest at the Barley Mow, Horseferry-road, Westminster, on the body of a female child found under the following circumstances:—Lynes Purcell, Police-Constable 243 B, said that on Saturday morning last, at five o'clock, he was on duty at Rathbone gate, Brompton, when, on passing the grounds of Lord Howard's house, he saw a parcel lying amongst the evergreens. He climbed over the rails, and found a bundle wrapped in coarse, thick paper. On picking it up the head of a child protruded from it. He at once took the bundle to the station-house at Brompton, and was then told to take it to Kensington workhouse. On taking it there he was instructed to take it to the dead-house of St. Margaret's, Westminster, in which parish the body had been found. He did so; and, on examining the body of a female child, tied up in a large piece of unbleached calico, and a handkerchief bound round the loins having upon it the name "Mr. W. Jenkins." He reported the result of his examination at the station-house, but did not know if any inquiries had been made on the subject. A sergeant of the B division who was present said he believed the report of the constable had been circulated through the various divisions, but was not certain. He was not aware whether any inquiry had been made at Lord Howard's residence, or whether any effort had been made to find out the person Jenkins, whose name was on the handkerchief. The jury returned a verdict of "Found dead," accompanied by an expression of their opinion that the police had neglected their duty in not making inquiry in the neighbourhood where the body was found and reporting the result to the Coroner, and recommended that such an inquiry should at once be

DIAMOND CUT DIAMOND--In large bond robberies in America, which are very common, it is the usual custom to call in "detectives," who, by agreeing to divide the plunder with the thieves

protect the latter from arrest, recover some of the stolen property for its owners, and get a commission for themselves. This kind of business recently gave rise to an adroit swindle in New York. Some men went to a broker and offered to sell him 128,000 dols. of alleged stolen bonds for 100,000 dols., much less than their market value. The broker at once communicated to the authorities, and the detectives were called in. Here was an excellent chance for a fat commission, and with intense mystery for many days they worked up the case. Finally, the detectives and the bond-sellers met at a New Jersey tavern to consummate the sale. The packages of bonds and money were exchanged, and then, with dramatic show, the detectives arrested the bond-sellers as thieves. The packages were opened; the "money" was found to be 100,000 dols. in counterfeit notes; the "bonds" to be three pounds of waste paper, having on the outside a genuine 1000 dols. bond. Both sides were swindled, the detectives quite as truly as the thieves.

ATTEMPTED MURDER AND SUICIDE.—Last Saturday evening an attempt was made at Kimbolton, by a young man named John Kinnersley, to murder his sweetheart, Sarah Jane Langford, a young woman about twenty-two years of age, and to destroy himself. It appears that Kinnersley had known the young woman for several years, and they were engaged to be married. Before the marriage took place, however, a quarrel arose in reference to a rival, and the young woman said she would have nothing more to do with Kinnersley. This had a great effect upon him, and last Saturday evening he endeavoured to kill his betrothed by discharging a gun at her, the contents of which entered her arm. He then reloaded the gun and shot himself, inflicting such a severe wound that he died on Sunday. Before he died he stated that it was all through love. A verdict of "Temporary insanity" was returned.

HYDROPHOBIA AMONGST SWINE.—In June last two pigs belonging to Mr. Thomas Mitchell, of Hebden Bridge, were bitten by a mad dog. The dog was shot. The pig which was most severely bitten soon showed signs of hydrophobia, and it was shot and buried by the owner; but it was not until a week or two ago that the other was affected. Remedies were at once sought for and applied, with a view to save the animal, but in vain. It became more like a ferocious tiger than a pig, and barked frantically about the sty, like a dog. It jumped about in so wild and savage a manner that it knocked one of its eyes out, and its hide was almost entirely torn off. It dashed fiercely against the door of the sty, which for safety had been strongly barricaded, and it was extremely dangerous for anyone to go near it. There being no signs of recovery, it was ultimately shot. The two pigs were quite fat before being bitten, but the dreadful disease had the effect of making them quite lean before they were destroyed.

THE LONDON GAZETTE.

FRIDAY, AUG.
H. BEARD, Cricklins

TUESDAY, AUG. 31.

